■ Metro / A16

Jawo-Yap probers now face probe

■ News / A2

RP alerts all embassies abroad on terrorist threats

■ Entertainment / A20

2 networks to air 2 versions of Rico Yan story

■ World / A8

2 Russian planes crash, killing 89; terrorism feared

■ BYLINE INQUIRER

Kapatid ko, kalaban ko (mga kampeon sa karera)

Ngayong alas-8 ng gabi, sa ABC

Lucio Tan is RP's richest; 6 other Pinoys in Forbes list

FORBES magazine's inaugural list of the 40 richest people in Southeast Asia includes seven Filipino businessmen.

Lucio Tan, Philippine Airlines chair and chief executive officer who built his empire on cigarettes and liquor, is the Philippines' richest man, with a net worth of

LUCIO TAN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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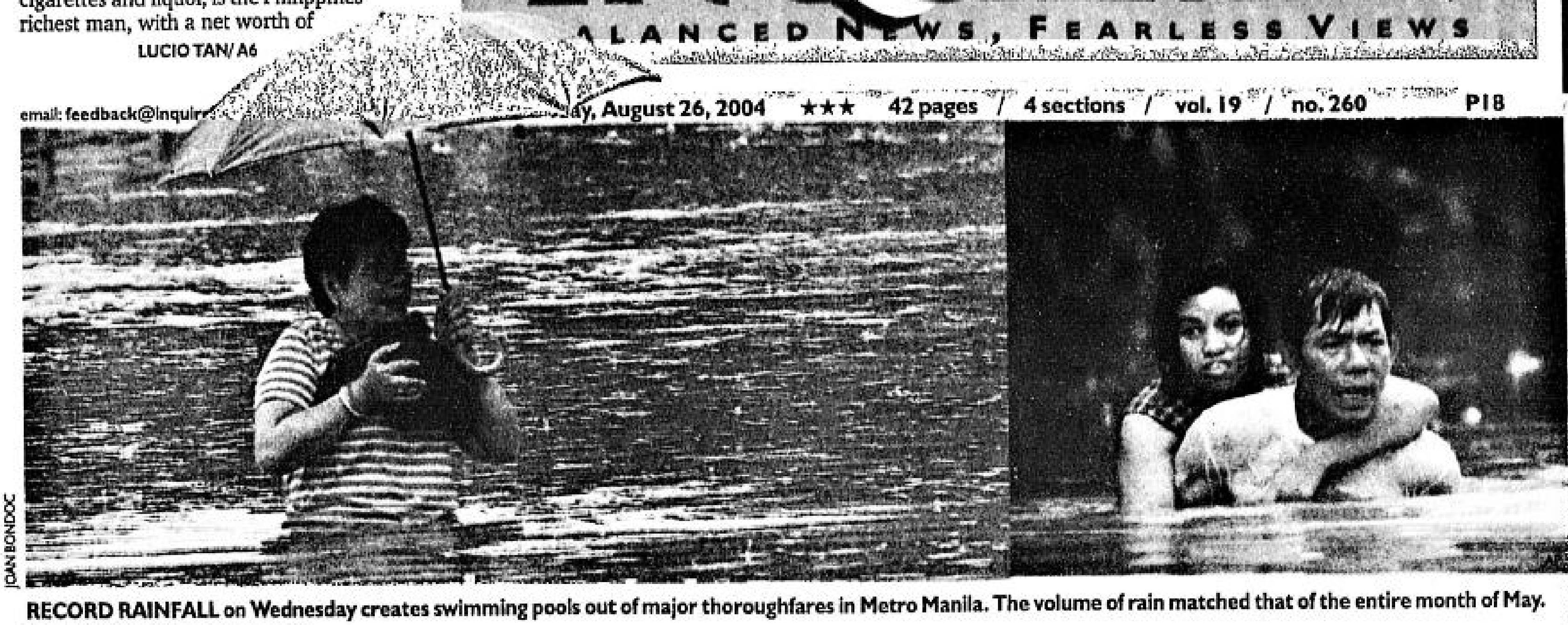
y, August 26, 2004 ★★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 260 P18

ACCIDENTAL FISHERMAN: Diving in search of his boots at the Burnham Park lake in Baguio City, Joseph Vergara, 32, comes up with tilapia.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NOTHERN LUZON BUREAU



JOAN BONDOC

RECORD RAINFALL on Wednesday creates swimming pools out of major thoroughfares in Metro Manila. The volume of rain matched that of the entire month of May. When it rains, it pours, indeed.

Ping: Let's give up all pork

Senator says gov't will save ₱20 billion

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday challenged his colleagues to give up their entire pork barrel for the next budget year if they really wanted to help the government deal with the fiscal crisis.

Lacson, who gave up his Priority Development Assistance Fund starting in 2002, said the announced agreement among nine administration senators to have their PDAF cut by half was a "half-hearted" gesture.

"That's not enough. If the aim is to help the government, let us do it wholeheartedly," Lacson told reporters. He said that the government would save at least P20 billion if all lawmakers gave up their pork barrel.

Sen. Serge Osmeña III said he would support Lacson's call provided everyone in the chamber would do so.

Explaining his stand, Osmeña said that as early as 1996, he had asked the Senate to "delete" all pork barrel, then called the Countryside Development Fund. He had argued that lawmakers did not need it.

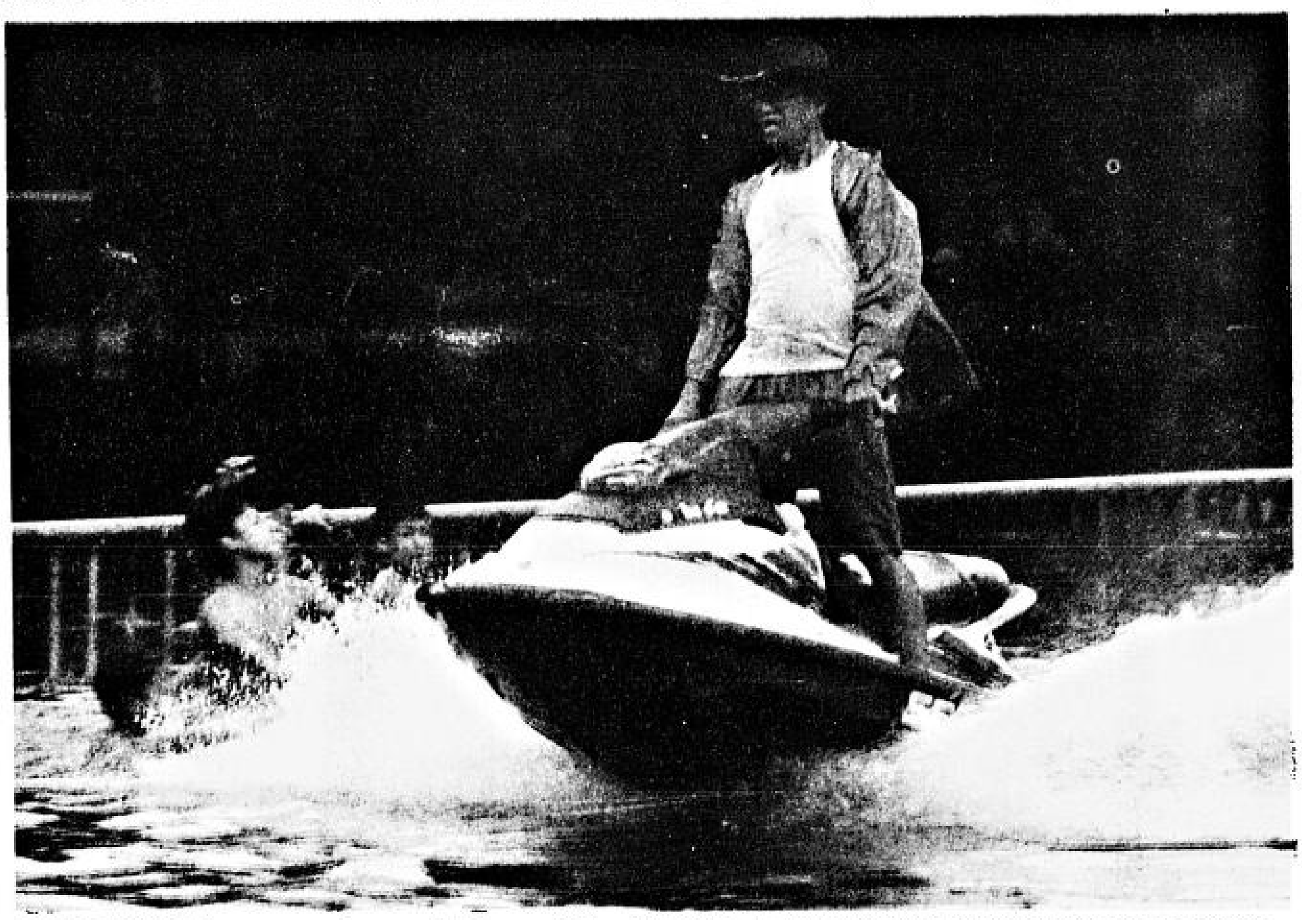
But mayors in the Visayas complained and told him this would put the region at a disadvantage because senators in Luzon were putting their funds in Luzon alone, he said.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has a different perspective.

"I'm asking, Where is the money going?" Pimentel said in a phone interview. If the money goes back to the control of President Macapagal-Arroyo, he said, where would she put it—in schools or roads?

Pimentel pointed out that sen-

PING/ A6



MAKING WAVES, in more ways than one, is this man astride a jet ski in front of the University of Santo Tomas on España Street waist-deep in flood due to the nonstop rains.

AFP

Garbage a major culprit in floods

Margaux C. Ortiz

IT WASN'T only because the rains were abnormally heavy. Garbage was a major culprit, too, in the heavy flooding that swept many parts of Metro Manila yesterday, said officials of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that the indiscriminate throwing of garbage in waterways affected the performance of the agency's pumping stations.

Fernando said President Macapagal-Arroyo had instructed him to strictly enforce the door-to-door collection of garbage policy to lessen the volume of trash in the streets.

The MMDA chair said less than half of the local government units were effectively implementing the policy, and this had aggravated the problem of residents' lack of discipline in garbage disposal.

Fernando said Ms Arroyo suggested that the agency take charge of hiring unemployed residents who could help carry out the policy.

"These jobless individuals, recommended by the local police, could pick up the garbage from each of the houses to ensure that the door-to-door policy is implemented properly," Fernando said.

6-hour downpour swamps Metro Manila; 6 killed

By Volt Contreras

EVEN BY the standards of a country lashed by 20 typhoons a year, yesterday's downpour lasting nearly six hours was so heavy that the total rainfall matched that for the whole month of May.

No wonder it drenched many by surprise.

Weathermen said they had sent out alerts it would be a rainy Wednesday but they did not have the necessary equipment to predict the volume of rains that would fall.

At least six people were either dead or missing and about 12,000 residents of Metro Manila fled their homes in the wake of floods that swept many parts of the metropolis of more than 12 million people. Agence France-Presse said eight people were feared dead.

The downpour triggered floods up to waist deep at places and landslides in some areas, caused cancelation of school classes and forced closure of many offices. In some low-lying areas, residents fled to their rooftops.

The heavy rains were induced

6-HOUR DOWNPOUR/ A4

GMA fires media undersecretary after DOTC extortion complaint

By Clarissa S. Batino

CRIMINAL charges are being prepared by the Department of Transportation and Communication against Malacañang's undersecretary for media affairs and others for alleged extortion.

In a statement issued yesterday, the DOTC said its surveillance system had caught Undersecretary Nolan Sison trying to solicit P1 million from a department official on Aug. 2. Sison denied this, but said he met with Assistant Transportation Secretary Roberto Castanares in the first week of August upon the latter's request.

The DOTC statement said President Macapagal-Arroyo had dismissed Sison following its complaints.

Sison, a former reporter for Radio Veritas and dzRH, said he had merely relayed to Cas-

GMA/ A4

Loan interest to eat up 33% of budget

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
Michael Lim Ubac
and Carlito Pablo

INTEREST payments will account for the biggest government expense next year, overtaking for the first time salaries for some 1.2 million government employees and maintenance expenses.

"While interest payments rapidly rise from 27 percent of the budget in 2003 to 33 percent in 2005, the public sector wage bill falls from 34 percent to 32 percent," Albay Rep. Joey Salceda (Kampi-Lakas) said.

Malacañang submitted yesterday to the House of Representatives a proposed budget of P907.589 billion for 2005, up 5.33 percent from this year's budget of P861.628 billion.

Salceda reiterated that 94 percent of the revenues the government would collect next year would be used to pay its debt, including the principal.

As of February, the total debt of the national government, excluding the obligations of government-owned and -controlled corporations, stood at P4.13 trillion.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the consolidated public sector debt as of September 2003 was P5.39 trillion, consisting of P2.72 trillion in domestic debt and P2.67 trillion in foreign debt.

The government has been resorting to domestic and foreign borrowing to cover the shortfall in revenue collection.

An administration senator said debt payments over the past few years could have already exceed-

INTEREST/ A5

Good jobs for good English speakers

By Blanche S. Rivera

THERE are more jobs out there than job-hunters think.

A good command of the English language is all it would take to elevate anxious applicants to the realm of the employed.

Jose Roland Moya, deputy director general of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said low English proficiency among job seekers had been a "huge" problem for the hiring companies, notably call centers.

"The vacancies have been available for quite some time," Moya told the INQUIRER, but applicants almost always failed in the language skills department.

If the government wants to pro-

GOOD/ A5

P'WEDENG
PWEDE
TAYO D'YAN!

Those who come in last 1st in 'hall of fame'

TORONTO—Maybe it isn't such a shame, after all, to come home without any Olympic medal.

To the victors go the spoils—the gold medals and the lucrative shoe contracts—but a niche in an unusual "hall of fame" awaits those who came in last.

A Canadian writer, web designer, snake breeder and

THOSE/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and western section of Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/26/04

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Roxas	Monsoon Rains
Tuguegarao	Monsoon Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Occasional Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Monsoon Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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All RP embassies abroad alerted on terror threats

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINES ordered all its embassies abroad on Wednesday to be on heightened alert in the wake of fresh threats of terror attacks against the US and members of the coalition in Iraq, top diplomatic officials said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo directed all foreign service posts to be "extra vigilant and maintain the heightened security measures for their premises and personnel" after its mission in Sweden was threatened with a terrorist attack.

Filipino diplomats abroad should be cautious, work with authorities in their host governments, and keep track of citizens in their jurisdictions, he said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said that Philippine ambassador to Stockholm Victoria Bataclan reported having received a faxed letter in Arabic containing the terror threat.

The letter appears "to show support for Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr and warns of military action against the US and coalition members," the DFA said, without specifying when it was received.

But Romulo said the letter was not "particularly addressed" to the Philippine Embassy.

"Apparently, other embassies in Stockholm have received letters as well regarding Iraq," he said in a statement, quoting Bataclan.

"No, it did not [specify any Philippine Embassy as target.] The Philippine Embassy has not been targeted," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said in an interview after reading Romulo's statement.

The Swedish foreign ministry confirmed that the Stockholm embassies of several countries with a military presence in Iraq had recently received threatening letters in Arabic.

Letter in Arabic

"Five or six embassies have received a letter in Arabic concerning their presence in Iraq. We have forwarded the information to the Stockholm police," spokeswoman Maria Haakansson told AFP.

The letter was addressed to US President George W. Bush and members of the coalition. The Philippines was, however, expelled from the coalition after it pulled out its troops from Iraq last month to save a Filipino truck driver.

The withdrawal drew strong criticisms from the US and other coalition members, saying this only emboldened the terrorists.

In a circular faxed to all diplomatic posts, Romulo also reminded ambassadors and consuls-general to comply with foreign service circulars on security, particularly the Oct. 25, 2002 circular, issued in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

"The security instructions are already in place and all foreign service personnel are reminded to be always aware of the measures being implemented by the embassies and consulates," he said.

The Philippines has some 82 embassies and consulates around the world.

The October 2002 circular instructs all posts to take all the necessary precautions for their personnel and premises against possible terror attacks as well as coordinate with host governments to provide "adequate security" for them, according to Romulo.

"If warranted, steps should be initiated to augment security measures for Filipinos in their respective jurisdictions," he said.

When asked if the department found the threat credible, Ebdalin said: "We have to take precautions because we have been receiving threats in most countries. We can't take it lightly because of the prevailing environment."

"Nobody can say whether it came from a credible source. We don't [know if it's a prank], but we have to take a precaution," he added.

Travel advisory

In New Zealand, its government told its citizens on Wednesday to defer non-essential travel to the Philippines due to the continuing risk of terrorist attacks.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said in an advisory it was also recommending deferral of all travel to the southern island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago and island groups.

It said there was some risk of terrorism and kidnapping in the rest of the Philippines, although some arrests of suspected terrorists had been made. *With AFP report*

OUTGOING acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez presents Abu Sayyaf suspect Nidjal Padjiran to members of the media. Padjiran, charged for the abduction of six members of Jehovah's Witnesses, wants to turn state witness.

Abu member wants to turn state witness

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MEMBER of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group wants to be placed under the Witness Protection Program (WPP) of the Department of Justice.

Nidjal Padjiran, 24, alias Abu Kudama and Abdulrahman Sabtal, who was arrested last month, has been tagged in a series of kidnappings and the bombing of Zamboanga City in October 2002 that killed an American soldier.

"We are now evaluating his statements to see if he could be included in the WPP," outgoing acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

Other ASG bandits have applied to become government witnesses but not one has been admitted to the program.

During a press conference, Padjiran admitted that he was an ASG member and that he belonged to the group of Abu Termiji. Gutierrez said Padjiran was a middle-ranking member of the ASG.

Members of the Philippine Marines arrested Padjiran on July 26, 2004 in Zamboanga City while he and 10 others were planning to kidnap the owner of La Merced Funeral Homes in that city, Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said that Padjiran has been charged for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of six members of Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu on Aug. 20, 2002.

She said one of the hostages, Emily Mantic, positively identified Padjiran as one of their captors.

She added that Mantic's husband, Lionel, was later beheaded by the bandits.

But Padjiran claimed that the hostages were only turned over to them by the group of ASG leader Radullan Sajiron.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III said that Padjiran was the eighth ASG bandit arrested in relation to the abduction of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

No more merienda at Palace meetings

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NO snacks.

When it comes to the government's belt-tightening policy, President Macapagal-Arroyo means business. She has ordered the kitchen staff to stop serving merienda during meetings at the Palace.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Cabinet Secretaries and their staff members should come with a "full stomach" during their mid-morning and mid-afternoon meetings because only coffee or tea would be served.

However, during meetings at lunch or dinner, a "light meal" would be served.

Bunye said the "No Merienda Policy" kicked off Monday during the President's morning meeting with her economic advisers and select lawmakers and after her session with planners for her upcoming state visit to China.

"The President told them we're not having the usual snacks as part of our austerity program," he said.

Although doing away with the usual sandwiches, *pancit* and native cakes might be a small gesture, "it's a way of saying we should lead by example," Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo has vowed to lead a simple government during these "tough economic times" to lend credence to her appeal for sacrifice from all sectors and to share the pain in addressing the country's fiscal problems.

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CA meets but fails to start job

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

THE NEW Commission on Appointments met yesterday for the first time but was unable to start the job of scrutinizing the new Cabinet appointments as Malacañang has yet to forward the names of the nominees to the body.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, the committee chair, said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has so far submitted only the nomination of Angelo Reyes as secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

But no public hearings could be set on Reyes' appointment as he has yet to complete the documentary requirements for his appointment.

Drilon encouraged the public to send to the CA any objections they may have to any of these appointees while assuring the nominees that they would be given a chance to answer.

The 25-member committee includes Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ralph Recto, Mar Roxas, Richard Gordon, Manuel Lapid, Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, Luisa Ejercito Estrada and Serge Osmeña.

The House component of the CA includes Representatives Prospero Pichay, Clavel Martinez, Marcelino Libanan, Prospero Amatong, Jesus Jurdin Romualdo, Manuel Ortega, Rafael Nantes, Antonino Roman, Aurelio Umali and Imee Marcos.

The CA has so far received the nominations of 296 officials which was forwarded during the congressional break. Of this, 118 have not submitted the documentary requirements while 10, including Reyes, submitted incomplete requirements.

An opposition congressman, meanwhile, threatened to take the House leadership to the Supreme Court unless the appointment of Imee Marcos as the lone opposition representative in the CA's House contingent was withdrawn.

"A one-man party and those that do not meet the minimum requirement based on proportional party representation cannot sit on the CA," said Rep. Jacinto Paras (LDP, Negros Oriental).

He said the Marcos case recalled that of former Quezon City Rep. Nikki Coseteng who sought but failed to get a seat in the CA in 1990.

Like Marcos, who is the lone member of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, Coseteng was the only member of the Kababaihan para sa Inang Bayan (Kaiba) party when she sought CA membership.

Coseteng sued the House leadership under then Speaker Ramon Mitra before the Supreme Court when she was denied a seat in the committee.

The Coseteng suit was dismissed by the high court, Paras said.

GMA creates 3 new offices under Claudio

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed Gabriel Claudio—the administration K4 coalition's campaign manager in the May elections—as political adviser.

Claudio's appointment came as no surprise since he was Ms Arroyo's de facto political adviser even before the campaign.

Despite her streamlining policy, the President created three new offices and placed them under Claudio's supervision: the Office of the Political Adviser (OPA), the Office of the Political Coalition Affairs (OPCA), and the Office for Constituency Affairs (OCA).

The President created the OCA a few weeks ago and appointed Edgardo Pamintuan as adviser, with a Cabinet rank.

The OPA and the OPCA replaced the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs (OPAPA) and the Office of the Presidential Political Liaison (OPPL). These abolished offices were formerly headed by Hernani Braganza and Jose Ma. Rufino, respectively.

Braganza was named to the post after he quit as press secretary. He is now an elected mayor in Pangasinan.

Senate sets Meralco rate hike probe

THE SENATE committee on energy will begin an inquiry next week into the Manila Electric Co.'s bid to increase electricity rates by 17.37 centavos per kilowatt hour, said committee chair Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

In a statement, Santiago said she wanted to find out whether the rate increase, to start in September, was justified.

Santiago said Meralco chief executive officer Manuel Lopez and Energy Regulatory Commission chair Rodolfo Albano would be among those to be invited to the Senate probe.

Two senators, however, minimized the impact of the new electricity rate increase. *Christine Avendaño*

House pledges swift passage of revenue bills

By Carlito Pablo

THE HOUSE of Representatives will take swift action on the economic measures, particularly the revenue bills, that Malacañang wants passed to stave off a full-blown fiscal crisis, Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said yesterday.

Nograles said the chamber was looking at a time frame of "from two to three months" for it to "fully evaluate and craft" the legislative measures.

President Macapagal-Arroyo urged Congress in her state-of-nation address to pass a package of economic measures aimed at raising P80 billion for the national coffers.

Nograles noted, however, that since the opening of congressional sessions in late July, the Department of Finance has yet to submit any actual measures for legislative action.

While it is waiting for the DOF to submit the tax proposals, the House will already start hearings on the proposed economic bills after the ways and means committee is constituted, the congressman said.

Under the Constitution, all revenue measures must start from the House. The ways and means committee takes charge of going over these measures before they are approved by the plenary.

Nograles said the President should be supported and respected for her honest admission about the state of the country's fiscal affairs.

"Her biting admission should mobilize us to act now and enforce the necessary steps to mitigate the looming fiscal crisis," Nograles said.

But he said Congress would not allow a railroading of the measures being sought by the Palace.

"These false claims about an 'economic martial law' are just scare stories because it is Congress which will hear, debate and decide the fate of any economic proposal," Nograles said.

One of the bills pending in the House is the one seeking a P2 per liter increase in taxes on petroleum products, which aims to raise about P29.7 billion in revenues.

Another P14 billion is seen as being raised by the bill that would adjust the taxes of so-called "sin products" like tobacco and liquor.

Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said the executive branch should be implementing "doable measures" in the meantime that Congress is deliberating on its proposed economic measures.

He said this would include trying to improve tax collections and prosecuting big-time tax evaders.

Pichay said the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs could still manage to generate more revenue collections under existing tax laws.

Graft raps vs solon revived

THE OMBUDSMAN'S office yesterday revived graft charges against former Surigao del Norte Rep. Constantino Navarro for the alleged misuse of his P13.8-million Countryside Development Fund from 1997 to 1998.

Navarro was indicted for graft before the Sandiganbayan for failing to account for P11.8 million of his pork barrel funds as well as overpricing a CDF project by P4.3 million.

Legislators are allotted a share of the Countryside Development Fund, now known as the Priority Development Assistance Fund, for projects in their constituencies to be funded from it.

The Ombudsman said that despite repeated demands by the Commission on Audit, Navarro failed to comply with an order for him to account for the P11.8 million.

In a resolution, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said the Navarro case contained all the elements for the graft case to prosper. *Armand N. Nocum*

Militant groups offer Aglipay a honeymoon

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S newest top cop may soon enjoy something his predecessor never did—a honeymoon period with militant and anti-crime groups, both common enemies of the Philippine National Police.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption yesterday said they were willing to give new PNP chief Edgar Aglipay a chance to fulfill his many promises.

It helps that Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño has "good personal relations" with Aglipay, dating back to the Estrada administration when the officer headed the National Capital Region Police Office.

"If there's one positive thing you could say about Aglipay," Casiño said, "it's the fact that he's easy to talk with. Because of this, violence was minimized."

Casiño's group hopes that the PNP, under Aglipay's leadership, will scrap the controversial "no-permit, no-rally" policy, purportedly the main source of violence in rallies during the Arroyo administration.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez, a fierce critic of Aglipay's predecessor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., is even more optimistic with the new PNP chief's leadership.

"I hope he could do things that Ebdane failed to do," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

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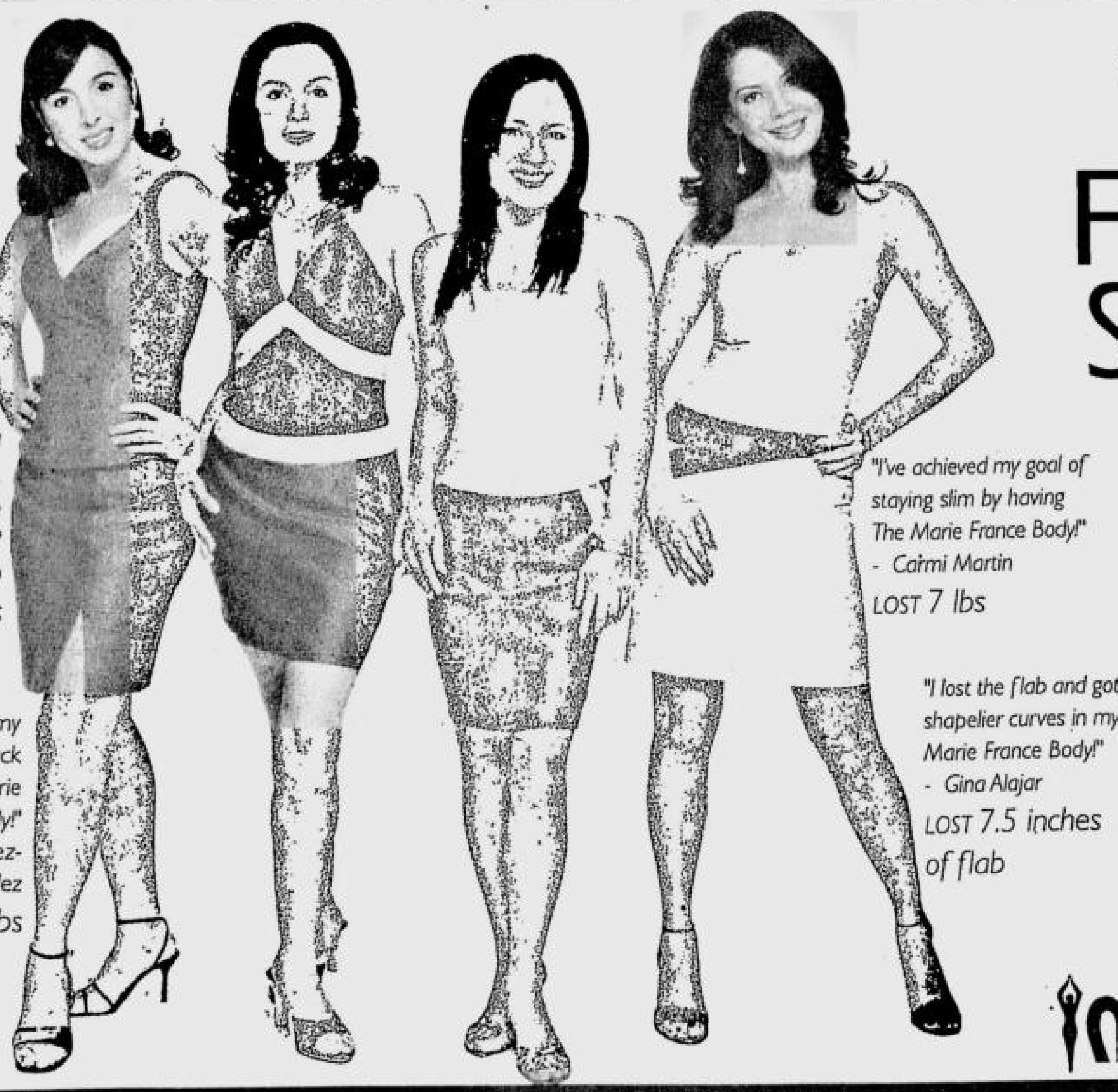

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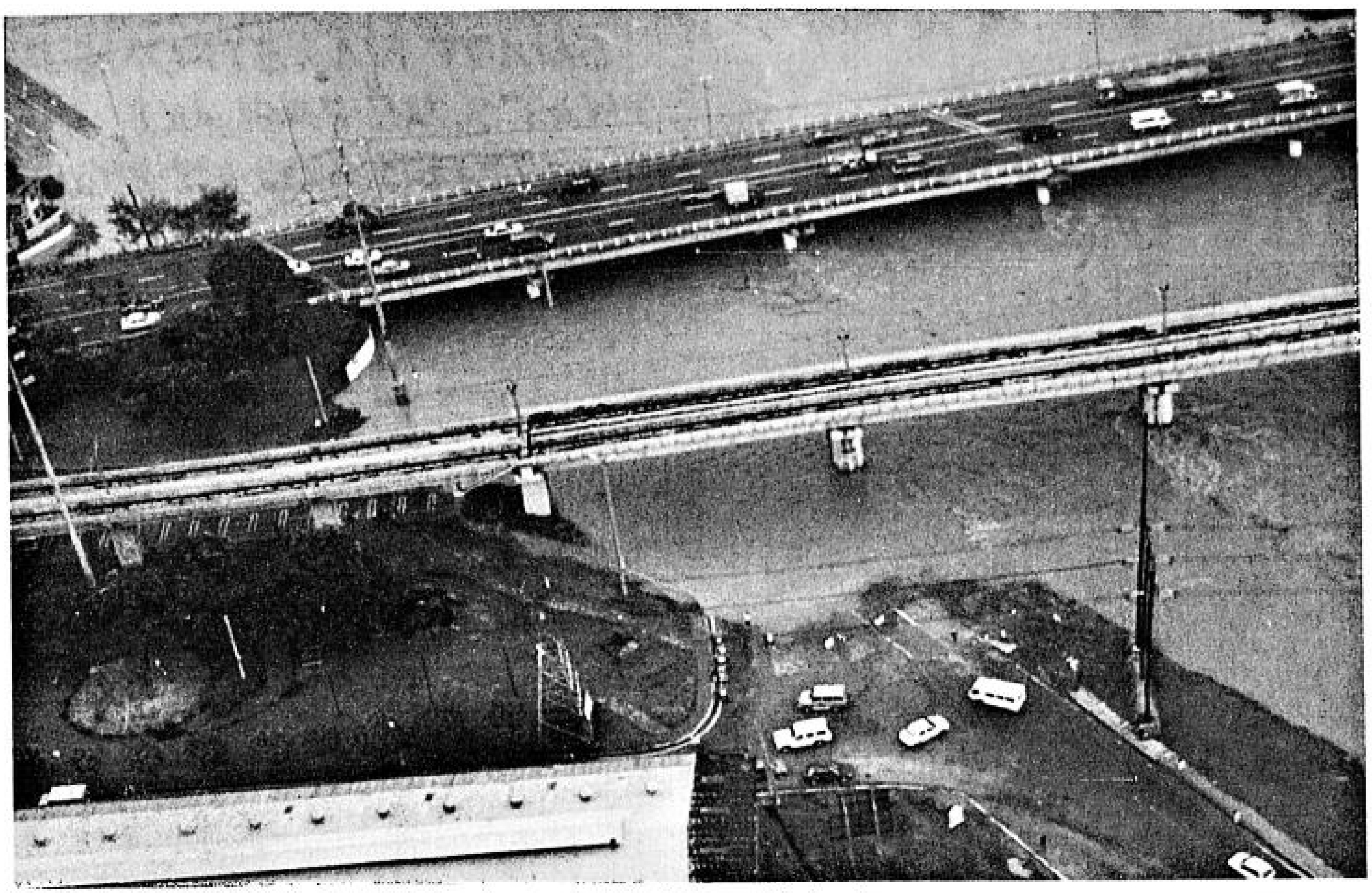
6-hour downpour swamps Metro Manila; 6 killed

From page A1



AERIAL view of the swollen Marikina River taken along the Marcos Highway on Wednesday. ROGER MARGALLO

by Typhoon "Marce." As Marce headed for Taiwan yesterday, another typhoon, named "Chaba," raged in the Pacific, 1,800 km east of extreme northern Luzon.

Still outside the Philippine area of responsibility, Chaba could threaten the country, weathermen said.

After leaving the Philippines, Marce wrought more destruction, burying a family of four in a landslide in northern Taiwan before slamming into China, causing the evacuation of 320,000 people.

'Abnormal'

The almost nonstop monsoon rains that paralyzed much of Metro Manila and forced some airlines to cancel their flights were "abnormal" by established weather patterns, said Nathaniel Cruz of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

From 2 a.m. to 8 a.m., a total 136 millimeters of rain—which translates to "136 million liters per hectare"—fell on the metropolis, Cruz said.

"That's already roughly equivalent to the normal amount of rain in May, which ranges from 100 to 200 mm, or one-fourth the rain expected in August, when the monthly average is 400 mm," he explained in an interview.

The country is well into the wet season, Cruz said, but "what is abnormal was the intensity" of yesterday morning's downpour. "We've had many monsoon rains this year but not this intense."

Cruz said Pagasa had predicted there would be rains "but unfortunately, we don't have enough instruments or facilities that can help us estimate the amount of precipitation or rainfall in a mass of cloud."

He estimated such equipment could cost P15 million.

Intense rainfall

Cruz offered no immediate explanation for the intense rainfall except for the southwest monsoon being enhanced by Marce, which, quite oddly, had already left the Philippine area of responsibility and, as of yesterday, was closer to Taiwan.

"Ironically, nobody was talking about Marce when it was still within (our borders) last Friday to Sunday. It only became famous now that it's outside," he said.

Malacañang suspended work in government offices in the afternoon.

The heavy rains also forced the cancelation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's *"pulong bayan"* (townhall meeting) at the Petron oil terminal in Pandacan, where she was to discuss her proposed nationwide energy conservation program.

Instead, Ms Arroyo donned her raincoat and boots and inspected a flood control project at the Pandacan pumping station together with Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Noting that the garbage problem aggravates flooding, Ms Arroyo directed Fernando to improve trash collection in areas along the Pasig River.

Getting feet wet

The bad weather failed to disrupt the ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo marking the formal takeover by new Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. of the post from outgoing defense chief Eduardo Ermita.

Among the offices under Cruz is the Office of Civil Defense, the primary agency tasked to handle rescue operations in times of calamity.

"Yes, I am getting my feet wet. But I have been monitoring the situation even before today. In the past, I also monitored disaster relief and rescue operations," Cruz told reporters.

Floodwaters affected many areas, including Quezon City, Manila, Marikina City, Mandaluyong, Malabon City, Valenzuela and Cainta in Rizal.

Military trucks deployed to pick up stranded commuters, while rubber boats and helicopters were sent to areas that could not be reached by road.

Six flights to and from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Manila Domestic Airport were canceled.

Fatalities

The fatalities included a 4-year-old boy who drowned in a creek in San Mateo, Rizal, local officials said.

Residents last saw Jeremy Laurio of Barangay Silangan, San Mateo alive as he was carried away by floodwaters at around 6 a.m.

"It was raining very hard," Barangay Silangan Councilman Lino Morta said over the phone. "What I could not understand was what the boy was doing in the creek, knowing the kind of weather we were having."

Quoting witnesses, Morta said the boy was apparently going to take a dip in the creek. He had reportedly taken off his clothes when the water carried him away.

Heavy rains also caused a landslide at Phase 6 of the Sta. Barbara Subdivision, in Barangay Silangan. But no one was hurt.

The bodies of two fatalities, aged 5 and 7 and residents of Barangay Sauyo, were found floating yesterday morning at Kinko creek. Neighbors said the victims could have accidentally slipped and fell off the creek since they were seen playing near the area prior to the incident.

Another victim, a 9-year-old and a resident of Barangay Apolonio Samson, was believed to have drowned in at least 7 ft of water.

Reported missing were Joey Patugalan, 26, and Franklin Castro, 20, both of Barangay Acacia. Neighbors claimed that the two men were seen taking a bath at Culiat creek when they were carried away by the strong current.

Six children were reportedly trapped inside their house due to rising floodwaters.

Floodwater in some Quezon City areas rose to as high as 10 feet, forcing most residents to stay on their roofs while waiting for rescuers.

Some 1,360 families, or around 7,000 persons, were evacuated in various areas in Quezon City, including Barangays Kristong Hari, Sta. Cruz, Damayan, Roxas, Doña Imelda, San Vicente, Mariblu, Sto. Domingo, Masambong and Talayan.

The Armed Forces dispatched rubber boats, military trucks and amphibian vehicles for rescue and evacuation operations in Gumamela Street in the Roxas District, Barangay Talayan, Tayuman in Manila, Barangay Tatalon, Barangays Damayan, Mariblu and San Francisco in Quezon City, Cainta and Marikina.

A helicopter from the 505th Wing of the Philippine Air Force was also dispatched to conduct rescue operations in Cainta and Tatalon.

The flash floods forced close to 2,000 families, or 12,000 individuals, to flee to evacuation centers in Quezon City, Caloocan and Marikina as of 4 p.m.

Relief goods from DSWD

The DSWD allocates relief goods, worth P116 a day, plus sleeping mats per displaced family. A food package is usually made up of three kilos of rice, canned goods, instant noodles, coffee and sugar.

In Marikina City, around 68 families or 322 persons were moved to schools and a gymnasium after the raging Marikina river engulfed their houses.

Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando said that, following the policy of the city, the first meal would be shouldered by the refugees. The next meals would come from the local government.

Classes suspended

Classes in public elementary and high school levels were also suspended in the cities of Valenzuela and Malabon but many students, especially those who belonged to the morning shift, had already left their homes when the suspension was announced at 7 a.m.

In Caloocan City, classes at the college levels were also suspended.

In Malabon City, several streets in at least 16 barangays were under knee-deep floods as of 10 a.m. The city government deployed two buses to give free rides to stranded passengers.

In Valenzuela City, parts of MacArthur Highway were impassable to light vehicles.

Stranded

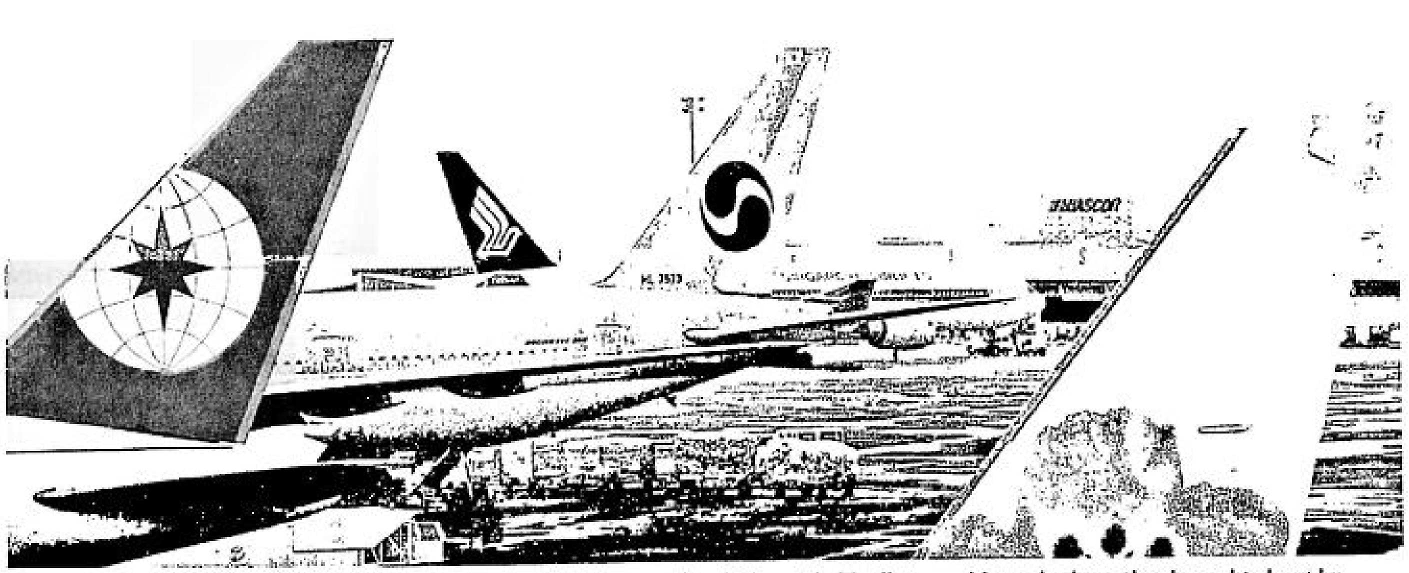
Though classes and work in government offices were suspended, hundreds of passengers had a difficult time traversing Manila's streets in the morning because some public utility vehicles could not pass through the floods.

Jeepney drivers cut trips while taxi drivers selected which passengers to pick up.

Tricycles and pedicabs were a bit more daring, taking in passengers and bringing them through the flooded streets of Laong Laan, Blumentritt and Dimasalang, among others. Fares went up a bit, but most passengers were uncomplaining.

Tricycles charged passengers around P50 each, up from the P10 to P20 they usually charge. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa, Jerome Aning, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Tina Santos, Luige A. del Puerto, Edson Castro Tandoc Jr., Leila B. Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo***

AMID the gloom of a very wet day, a glum President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando during her visit to the flood control terminal in Pandacan, Manila, on Wednesday. VAL HANDUMON



NINE international flights are diverted to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila to avoid very bad weather brought about by Typhoon "Marce" in Taiwan. ROGER MARGALLO

GMA fires media usec after DOTC extortion complaint

From page A1

tanares the P1-million demand of his "assets" in exchange for their silence.

The DOTC claimed that the money was in exchange for not proceeding with a planned smear campaign against Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who was due for confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

According to the DOTC, Sison gave Castanares one week to produce the P1 million or the demolition job against Mendoza would proceed.

"We will prosecute them to the end. Maybe they forgot that I was once a chief of the Philippine National Police..." Mendoza said in a statement.

The DOTC said criminal charges would be filed against Sison, former newscaster Richard Rivera and others in the Department of Justice and the National Bureau of Investigation "as soon as possible."

Sison said Conrado Limcaoco, his immediate superior at the defunct Office of Media and Ecclesiastical Affairs, asked him to resign on Aug. 22. He did so the next day.

The DOTC said Sison was extorting in behalf of the Philippine Monitoring Group, a supposed antigraft group with which Rivera was connected.

Rivera was said to have left his job at RPN-9 television to help manage the media group of the opposition Kilusan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino during the election campaign.

Lifestyle check

The DOTC quoted Sison as claiming that the President had authorized his group to conduct a lifestyle check on the department's officials. But the Palace denied his claim.

Sison said, however, that he had access to documents detailing alleged questionable projects at the DOTC, particularly involving the bids and awards committee under Castanares.

"This is a case of shooting the messenger," Sison said.

Sison also said he gave the documents to Castanares in the last week of July out of good faith. He said he viewed the threat posed by the documents to be real.

"Castanares asked for a meeting, so I went to his office," Sison said, adding:

"During that meeting, he asked me what my group wanted and how much. I relayed to him what my assets wanted. The P1 million, of which nothing would go to me, would be in exchange for killing the story."

Sison described Rivera as an acquaintance of his who wanted to get back on the good side of the Arroyo administration.

"I was trying to help him," Sison said. "I told him *na tulungan mo kami pumatay ng mga potential na sunog* (to help us put out potential fires). And that's when he gave me the documents on the anomalies at the DOTC."

'Nothing to hide'

The DOTC said Sison's monitoring group had been contacting department officials since June.

"They first threatened to publish alleged anomalies in the DOTC [in time for] President Arroyo's [State of the Nation Address] if we did not settle with them. We told them to go ahead. After all, we have nothing to hide," said a DOTC statement quoting an unnamed official.

The DOTC quoted Sison as saying that his group was a spin-off of the KNP media group that disbanded after the May elections.

It said the group was harassing government officials under the guise of pursuing a crusade against corruption.

Correction

ON THE FRONT page of yesterday's issue, the caption of the main photo and the accompanying story misstated the organizer of the job fair at the Philippine Trade and Training Center in Pasay City. The job fair was organized by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines—not the Employers Confederation of the Philippines. The Department of Labor and Employment and the Couples for Christ also helped the PMAP in putting up the job fair.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Interest cost RP's biggest expense

From page A1

ed the annual national budgets.

Sen. Richard Gordon asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to reveal the complete picture.

He pointed out that in 2002, while the budget for debt service was only P185.8 billion, "actual cash disbursements on debt service expenditures reached P1.3 trillion."

He noted that the annual national budget since then did not exceed P1 trillion (P850 billion in 2003).

The senator based his claim on the Commission on Audit Annual Financial Report for 2002.

"The government can always deny this (and say that) there might be double accounting on some items. But unless it gives the entire picture by itemizing the expenses, we won't know the real score," Gordon said.

He said that revealing the complete picture to policymakers and the public would erase suspicions that Malacañang was hiding some vital economic data.

Spartan, prudent

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin handed over the administration's proposed General Appropriation Act of 2005 to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. at the latter's residence in Makati.

De Venecia hailed the proposed appropriation measure as a "spartan, prudent and reformist budget awaited by the Filipino people."

"We can now begin to turn the economy around as we move and work double time to pass this budget, a commitment of our president to reform and responsible development," De Venecia said.

While the 2005 budget was 5.33 percent higher than the 2004 budget, Salceda said the budget was actually "contractionary" because the increase was lower than the 6.5 percent inflation estimated by private economists.

He noted that the national government budget was actually higher by only 1.2 percent minus the funds for internal revenue allocation (IRA) and debt service allocations.

Projected revenues

A statement issued by the Department of Budget and Management said that the appropriations measure considered projected revenues from existing tax measures.

"The anticipated collections from the eight revenue measures being proposed to Congress will be the subject of a supplemental budget by the Executive," the DBM said.

Deficit

The DBM said that revenues were expected to reach P758.5 billion, of which P677.7 billion or 89.3 percent will come from taxes.

The remaining P80.8 billion will come from non-tax sources like fees and charges, income and foreign grants.

"The budget deficit will go down from 4.2 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) or P184.5 billion, and will be financed mainly through domestic borrowings," the DBM said.

The budget deficit was P99.41 billion in the first seven months. The deficit was P19.29 billion in July, just P4 billion less than the shortfall for the entire second quarter, as the government seeks spending cuts to stay within its 2004 target.

Ms Arroyo said on Monday the Philippines was in a fiscal crisis. But some analysts saw her remarks as a shock tactic to win support for new taxes.

Revenues in July were P59.34 billion and expenditures were P78.64 billion, Bureau of Treasury data showed.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Cut burden of servicing debts by government corporations
- Price and fee adjustments
- Cost cutting
- Management pay cuts

Adjust government fees
- Increase motor-vehicle fees by 50 percent
- Increase excise on new vehicle registration by 8 percent

Raise revenues through tax reform
- Better BIR tax effort
- Close off tax loopholes
- Update existing taxes
- Pass new revenue measures

Consider only new taxes based on strict economic justification and ease of collection
- Index specific taxes on tobacco and alcohol
- P2 per liter specific tax on petroleum products
- Increase value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent
- Expand coverage of value-added tax rate

Reallocate spending
- Reduce internal revenue allotment to 30 percent
- Halve pork barrel allocations

Source: "The deepening crisis: the real score on deficits and the public debt" by 11 faculty members of the UP School of Economics

Revenue measures

In the same statement, DBM listed a number of measures aimed at "fiscal consolidation through fundamental and expenditure measures" are:

- Passage of eight revenue measures to raise P80 billion in new funds.
- Passage of a proposed Fiscal Responsibility Bill which aims to ensure that no new laws are passed if these do not have funding sources.
- Reorganization of the Executive Branch and a proposal asking Congress to grant the President the authority to reorganize the entire bureaucracy.
- Implementation of efforts to make the operations of government-owned and controlled corporations more efficient and economical.
- Treatment of IRA as "automatic appropriations."

Capital outlays

Salceda said the overall budget of national agencies for 2005 rose by only 1.2 percent or P4.4 billion compared with the 11.1-percent, or P30 billion, increase in interest payments and the 7.2-percent rise, or P10.5 billion, in IRA for local government units.

With two-thirds of the P45.9 billion increase in the 2005 budget going to interest payments, the government has wielded the ax on capital outlays whose share would go down from 10.5 percent to 7.9 percent.

"The proposed capital outlay of P72 billion is even lower than the 2003 level of P87 billion. This would compromise the future capacity of the economy for growth, which in turn is the basis of government revenues," Salceda said.

He said the private sector should take up the slack in investments in order to keep the economy humming next year.

Cut to the bones

Salceda said that the budget embodied the President's austerity program and illuminated the serious fiscal problems the country was facing.

"Not only is it cut to the bones, there is very little marrow in those bones. Nothing even for politically appealing social impact projects or for suspiciously juicy construction contracts," Salceda said.

With 82 percent of the budget going to mandatory expenditures like debt and IRA, Salceda said the government had no choice but to cut social services and capital outlay to keep its budget deficit at P185 billion or 3.22 percent of gross national product (GNP) from the current 3.91 percent of GNP.

The President declared that everybody must share in the pain of solving the fiscal crisis but did not say that the pain would be served in equal doses.

Token cuts

Ms Arroyo has offered to make token cuts in her office while taking off a big chunk out of the pork barrel funds of members of Congress.

Spending cuts will start with the Office of the President whose budget has been reduced by eight percent or P213 million to P2.394 billion in 2005, according to the President.

It is the fourth biggest budget cutback among government agencies behind the Commission on Elections (down by P4.979 billion), Department of Transportation and Communication (down by P2.312 billion) and the Department of Energy (down by P339 million).

In contrast, the President is proposing that Congress reduce pork barrel funds by at least 40 percent to generate savings of P9.7 billion (P40 million from P70 million in each congressional district and P120 million from P200 million.) The pork barrel cutbacks are on top of the P24 million reduction in Congress' budget. Its budget for next year is P4.67 billion.

Only 10 agencies had their budgets cut (including the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Health) while 24 agencies saw their allocations increase.

Aside from the lawmaker's pork, the President wants the local government units to share the pain of solving the fiscal crisis by slashing their take of national taxes.

The President has ordered her economic managers "to study the need to reduce the IRA (P151 billion in the 2005 budget) to spread the burden of fiscal adjustment among all government entities."

With a report from Reuters

Good jobs for good English speakers

From page A1

duce a "more employable" work force, he said, it should strengthen the English language program in schools, starting from the primary level. In fact, he said, this was one of the action points identified during a recent employers' congress.

The goal should be pursued "with political will," Moya stressed, adding that Filipinos need not miss out on opportunities presented by the booming call center industry just because they cannot speak English well.

Ironically, he pointed out, Filipinos have long prided themselves in being an English-speaking people—a major advantage for its work force which is thus in demand in the international labor market.

But recent research has shown that this erstwhile asset has deteriorated on account of poor investment in education.

A 2002 study conducted by HA Cervantes Knowledge Systems Inc., the Philippine-based firm that administers the Test of English for International Communication, revealed that the current proficiency level of graduating Filipino college students, particularly those taking up business and education courses, was down to the "basic working" grade. This means "the person hardly understands native English speakers."

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Ping: Let's give up all pork

From page A1

ators themselves could make that determination.

"We dispute that she has moral superiority over us in that regard," he said of Ms Arroyo.

Senators and congressmen each get P200 million and P60-P65 million in PDAF every year, respectively. They use the fund to bankroll their pet projects in their respective legislative districts, but it is also a known source of kickback for lawmakers, local officials and contractors.

Economists from the University of the Philippines have recommended a 50 percent cut as one of the measures to cope with the fiscal crisis.

But even if congressmen forego their pork barrel for the next 350 years, the government won't be able to save enough to pay the public sector debt of P5 trillion, according to Rep. Rolando Abaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee.

"We need more than a pork holiday to make our fiscal blues go away," said Abaya, whose committee is preparing to run a fine-tooth comb through Malacañang's proposed budget for 2005.

But he said he and his colleagues were willing to take a cut in their pork barrel.

Roll call

Other senators are not eager to take a 50 percent cut, as proposed in the resolution that Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Ralph Recto are pushing.

Pangilinan said he presented the resolution during the majority caucus the other day.

He said some wanted to waive the PDAF altogether, and others, while agreeable to a cut, expressed concern because they had committed their funds to certain projects.

Asked whether other senators had signified support for the resolution, Pangilinan said that he had spoken only with Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. so far, and that the latter had "no objection" to it.

It was not certain whether the resolution would be subjected to a vote in the chamber.

"We still have to confer with the minority and find out its sentiments, and then we will be able to see how to move forward," Pangilinan said in a phone interview.

But "at the minimum," he said, "we have nine senators committed to the PDAF cut."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, who supports the resolution, said that "whether the resolution is enacted or not, it is voluntary on our part so it is already effective."

Drilon said he would give the other half of his PDAF to the school building program he had with the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Aside from Drilon, Recto and Pangilinan, the other senators agreeable to the proposed cut in pork barrel funds were Senators Juan Flavier, Pia Cayetano, Rodolfo Biazon, Lito Lapid, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Richard Gordon.

Sen. Mar Roxas, who belongs to the majority, told reporters: "I am willing to forego the PDAF so long as it goes to promoting and energizing the public market, which is part of my priorities together with the micro, small and medium enterprises."

Alternative proposal

Sen. Edgardo Angara had this to say in a phone interview: "Simply waiving [the money] will not reduce the deficit because it's already budgeted and somebody else might use it. [Waiving the funds] will achieve nothing."

Angara's proposal is for senators to earmark 50 percent of their PDAF for "urgent rural infrastructure," like farm-to-market roads and school buildings.

In this way, he said, senators would be able to improve rural infrastructure and create countryside jobs.

"I support the concept but in a different way, in a more efficient and effective way," Angara said.

Extraordinary times

Lacson expressed the hope that congressmen would also give up their PDAF.

He said that while he understood that congressmen had their constituents to attend to, "these are extraordinary times."

"We can, for instance, bargain [with the government] not to impose taxes on oil in exchange for the pork barrel we are giving up," he said.

Lacson also said the "important" reason he gave up his PDAF was that he considered it "evil."

Even if not all lawmakers are involved in graft, the public nevertheless suspects them of committing graft, he said.

No magic pill

"People believe that the reason why we are running for office is we're after the pork barrel funds," Lacson lamented. "That is the impression that we want to erase."

For the House alone, a total of about P15.3 billion goes to the pork barrel of 236 lawmakers.

"But lest it be misconstrued that pork barrel cuts are the magic pill that will solve our fiscal problems, it must be stressed that savings from such cuts constitute only a small drop in the big dam of money that we need," Andaya said.

He also said pork barrel cuts would mean fewer projects at the grass-roots level.

"Pork barrel is a generic level," he said. "It is, however, more popularly known for its many brand names, like schools, hospitals, roads, irrigation."

Andaya said pork barrel was actually "good cholesterol" because districts that did not get much support from the national government would get projects, courtesy of their respective congressmen.

"Make no bones about it. What congressmen spend for their district is not even 2 percent of the national budget. Even at that, it accounts for a huge chunk of productive appropriations," Andaya said.

In Malacañang, Ms Arroyo reiterated her call on all sectors to do their share in helping the country weather the fiscal crisis.

"We are facing tough times, but this crisis can never put down the spirit of the Filipino. But this is a two-way street in which our combined sacrifices should meet and carry us through," she said in a statement.

"The Filipino can do it if we think as one nation and one people," she said, adding that the government would "lead the way in terms of restraint as well as in service."

Ms Arroyo hailed senators and barangay officials for heeding her call for belt-tightening.

"I am glad at the response of the Senate and our barangays in sharing the burden, and I am confident that this attitude of patriotism and statesmanship will infuse all our institutions and sectors," she said.

After you

Gordon suggested that the President slash her own pork barrel to show the way.

"Let's lead by example ... in a sense," he said in an interview.

He also said Ms Arroyo's social fund amounted to about P500 million a year. But he failed to mention that Congress also allocates about P500 million as intelligence fund for the Office of the President.

"We have a sense of urgency," said Gordon, who is among the senators amenable to a 50-percent cut in their PDAF. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac*

IN THE KNOW

What is pork barrel?

PORK barrel refers to funds in the national budget for projects identified by members of Congress primarily for the purpose of ingratiating themselves with their constituents.

Officially called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (formerly the Countrywide Development Fund), pork barrel is a source of kickbacks and campaign funds for legislators and local officials.

Up to 60 percent of funds for infrastructure projects like roads are lost to corruption, according to a senator. As a result, such roads are shoddily built.

Each senator gets P200 million in pork. In other words, the total pork allocation for the 23 senators reaches a whopping P4.6 billion.

Each member of the House of Representatives gets P65 million in pork. The total pork allocation for the 236 lawmakers reaches P15.34 billion.

Origin

Salted pork used to be the sailors' staple food. The food was packed in barrels that bulged with lard at the bottom. This fatty excess inspired 19th century American politicians to adopt the container's name in describing an appropriation made by opponents which they charged was a cheap way of buying the voters' favor.

As time passed, the term was applied to money grants, public works, or government jobs used, without accountability, by politicians as patronage with more regard to political advantage than to the public good. *By PDI Research*

LACSON

Lucio Tan is RP's richest; 6 other Pinoys in Forbes list

From page A1

US$1.6 billion. He is ranked 12th. Henry Sy, who heads SM Prime, the Philippines' biggest mall operator, is the second richest Filipino with a net worth of $1.4 billion.

The five other Filipinos on the list are Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr., George Ty, John Gokongwei and Tony Tan Caktiong. Their rankings were not immediately available.

The list, released yesterday in Singapore, is topped by Malaysian Robert Kuok and consists of the "superwealthy from the region's major economies"—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

With a minimum net worth of US$210 million each, the total net worth of the 40 individuals is over US$47 billion.

Malaysia, "a particularly bright spot," has 10 entries, including six billionaires. Kuok has a net worth of US$4.1 billion. His sprawling business empire in Asia includes the South China Morning Post, the Shangri-La hotel chain and real estate developer Kerry Properties. Runner-up is another Malaysian, multimedia magnate Ananda Krishnan, with a net worth of US$3.5 billion.

Thailand comes in a close second with nine entries. Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines have seven each.

Singapore's real estate tycoon, Kwek Leng Beng, is ranked third with a net worth of US$2.8 billion. Tied in fourth positions, with a net worth of US$2.3 billion each, are his compatriots Ng Teng Fong and Wee Cho Yaw.

Richest Indon

The richest Indonesian, Rachman Halim, who heads PT Gudang Garam, is also ranked fourth on the list. Halim and the two other Indonesians on the list, R. Budi Hartono and Putera Sampoerna, have made their fortunes from *kretek*, or clove cigarettes.

Tied with Lucio Tan in 12th position is the richest Thai, beverage billionaire Chaleo Yoovidhya, also with a net worth of US$1.6 billion.

Thailand's second richest man is Dhanin Chearavanont, whose family is one of the world's largest suppliers of animal feed. He is followed by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Singapore's hi-tech guru

Singapore's tech guru, Sim Wong Hoo, is ranked 37th with a net worth of US$270 million. Head of Creative Technology, his famous Sound Blaster card helped convince Hollywood mogul George Lucas to set up a digital animation studio in Singapore.

"Southeast Asia is one of the world's most dynamic regions and therefore home to some of the world's most dynamic entrepreneurs. Despite the booms and busts of the past decade, the region continues to generate significant wealth for its savviest local entrepreneurs," commented Justin Doebele, Forbes contributing editor.]

Top 10

The region's top 10 richest men are: Robert Kuok, Malaysia; Ananda Krishna, Malaysia; Kwek Leng Beng, Singapore; Rachman Halim, Indonesia; Ng Teng Fong, Singapore; Quek Leng Chan, Malaysia; Wee Cho Yaw, Singapore; R. Buid Hartono, Indonesia; Lee Seng Wee, Singapore; and Lim Goh Tong, Malaysia.

Forbes record

Net worth of the individuals was calculated based on the current share prices and exchange rate for those with publicly traded fortunes. For privately held fortunes, the estimate was based on the value the companies would be worth if they were public.

Forbes has tracked world wealth for nearly two decades, and is renowned for its ranking of billionaires and celebrities. This is the first in an Asia Pacific list that will appear in the coming months.

The series is sponsored by SG Private Banking (Asia Pacific), the private wealth management arm of the Societe Generale Croup.

Said Daniel Truchi, CEO of SGPV (Asia-Pacific): "We are delighted to be associated with Forbes in their series of Asia Rich list. We fully share Forbes' philosophy in the power of free enterprise."

Those who come in last 1st in 'hall of fame'

From page A1

confessed "professional smartass" has dedicated himself to immortalizing—in cyberspace—the gallant Athens losers, in celebration of true Olympic spirit.

"I worry that we're adopting a patronizing attitude toward last-place finishers, especially if they're from little countries like São Tomé or Mongolia," said Jonathan Crowe, 32.

The world is guilty of "patting them on the head for participating and not taking them seriously, even though most of us couldn't even come close to doing what they just did," he told Agence France-Presse.

Crowe, from Shawville, Quebec, who glorifies in the online name of mcwetboy, trawls through Olympic results for two hours a day pinpointing last-place finishers in each event.

His losers hall of fame is then posted on his web log or blog on the Internet (www.mcwetboy.net).

Those who do not finish their event are disqualified or exposed drug cheats are excluded: Only true last-place finishers need apply.

An ungainly crown

From Monday's competition, he lauded female walker Fumilay Fonseca of Sao Tomé and Principe and Greek triple-jumper Athanasia Perra of Greece, who had the shortest best leap in the qualifying rounds of 13.19 meters.

"Greece seems determined not to let the most last-place finishes crown slip through its fingers. Results from Palestinian and Somalian competitors are rather distressing," the weblog notes.

Leading the last-place finishers, as well as riding high in the medals table, is China, according to a list collated by Crowe. But Greece, Kyrgystan, Switzerland and Poland are close behind.

Crowe said he did not believe "last-place finishers are losers."

Losers' consolation

"They just happened to come in last. They aren't the worst, either, because there are millions, if not billions, of people who are even worse than they are—they're just not at the Games."

The site also celebrates the endeavors of gallant losers from Olympics past, including British 400-meter runner Derek Redmond, who hobbled around the track supported by his father after tearing a hamstring at Barcelona in 1992.

Special mention

Special mention is reserved for A Baser Wasiqi of Afghanistah, who trailed in last, an hour and half behind the previous finisher in the marathon at Atlanta in 1996.

Lest anyone should think Crowe's site is sniping at losers who might rather be left alone—its masthead has a message for those who would mock the afflicted: "Because they're there, and you're not." *AFP*

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UP geologist warns against lahar flows

By Armand N. Nocum

A LAHAR slide is a tragedy waiting to happen in Pampanga, geologist Kevin Rodolfo has warned.

All it would take is for several hours of rain to set loose the accumulated lahar in Porac and other low-lying areas of Pampanga, said Rodolfo in an interview following the Sandiganbayan hearing on Monday on the graft case arising from the breaching of the P3-billion lahar megadike in the province.

Rodolfo said the country was not "out of the woods yet" insofar as lahar—the mudflow of wet, volcanic debris left by the explosion of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991—was concerned.

He recalled how in 2002, a "very mild lahar" hit the western lateral dike that protects the city of Angeles, destroying a hundred meters of the megadike.

"Had the rains lasted a little longer, it would have reached Angeles," he said.

Rodolfo, a visiting professor of geology at the University of the Philippines, said the people in Pampanga have been fortunate because only "mild rainstorms" have hit the area.

The University of Southern California-based Rodolfo told the hearing that it was the faulty design that led to the breaching of the FVR Megadike.

He said it was not the direct onslaught of lahar that destroyed the dike but the "standing water" accumulated behind the dike following heavy rains in 1996.

He blamed officials of the Department of Public Works an Highways' maintenance bureau for failing to make a comprehensive study of the behavior of lahar and to conduct test-boring of the lahar deposits which would have anticipated the possibility of water destroying the dike.

The megadike is made up of concrete laid over highly porous lahar deposits.

Poster person for TB sought

By Blanche S. Rivera

WANTED: Celebrity endorser for TB.

Advocates of tuberculosis treatment and elimination in the Philippines are looking for a "celebrity patient" whose experience with TB could spur the education campaign on the ailment in the country.

The Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT), a USAID-supported organization, said that a well-known face who had battled with TB and won could encourage others to seek treatment as well.

"Every disease would love to have a poster child... But very rarely would you find a celebrity who's willing to share his battle with tuberculosis. This shows there's still stigma in having the ailment," Lee Reichmann, executive director of the New Jersey Medical School National TB Center, said in an interview yesterday.

"Filipinos who have TB still bear the stigma of having a poor man's disease," he said.

Never mind if many of the country's heroes have either suffered or died from tuberculosis. They include: propagandists Marcelo del Pilar and Graciano Lopez-Jaena, former President Manuel Quezon, Jose Rizal's lover Josephine Bracken, the parents of Andres Bonifacio, and writer Carlos Bulosan.

Reichmann, a guest speaker in the 11th Annual Convention of the PhilCAT, which opens today, urged private individuals and doctors to fight TB.

The Philippines ranks eighth in the world with the highest burden of TB. Every day, 75 Filipinos die of the ailment, but every day, 164 patients receive treatment.

Reichmann said the country needs to improve its tuberculosis situation because its economy largely depends on overseas workers.

"The OFWs could carry the bacteria and spread it in countries where they work, especially the Middle East where there is a low prevalence of TB. This could affect the demand for Filipino workers across the globe," he said.

Reichmann cited the Philippines for integrating the Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS), a tuberculosis treatment course, in the curriculum of medical schools. It is the second country in the world to do so.

The first was the US.

RP buys choppers from Singapore

THE PHILIPPINE military received Wednesday the first three of 20 refurbished military helicopters it had purchased from Singapore to boost counterinsurgency operations.

The UH-1H helicopters were bought from Singapore's ST Aerospace Engineering Pte Ltd. under the country's military modernization program at a cost of about P31.4 million each, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

The helicopters, popularly called "Hueys," can be used for medical evacuation, air assault, and transporting troops and supplies, Lucero said.

He said each helicopter will be fitted with M-60 machine guns and night flying instruments and accessories. Currently, Philippine military helicopters are unable to make nighttime maneuvers.

The Philippine military is among the most poorly equipped in Southeast Asia, and a major modernization program has been stumped by the huge amounts needed by this poor country.

The military is fighting communist rebels, who are spread nationwide, Muslim secessionists and al-Qaida-linked extremists in the southern Philippines. *AP*

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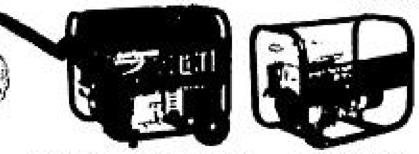

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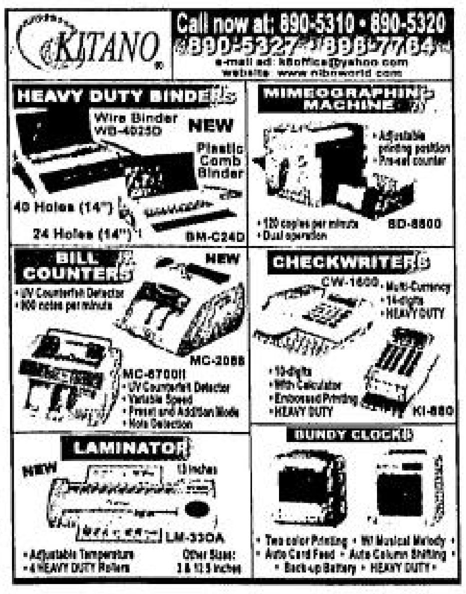

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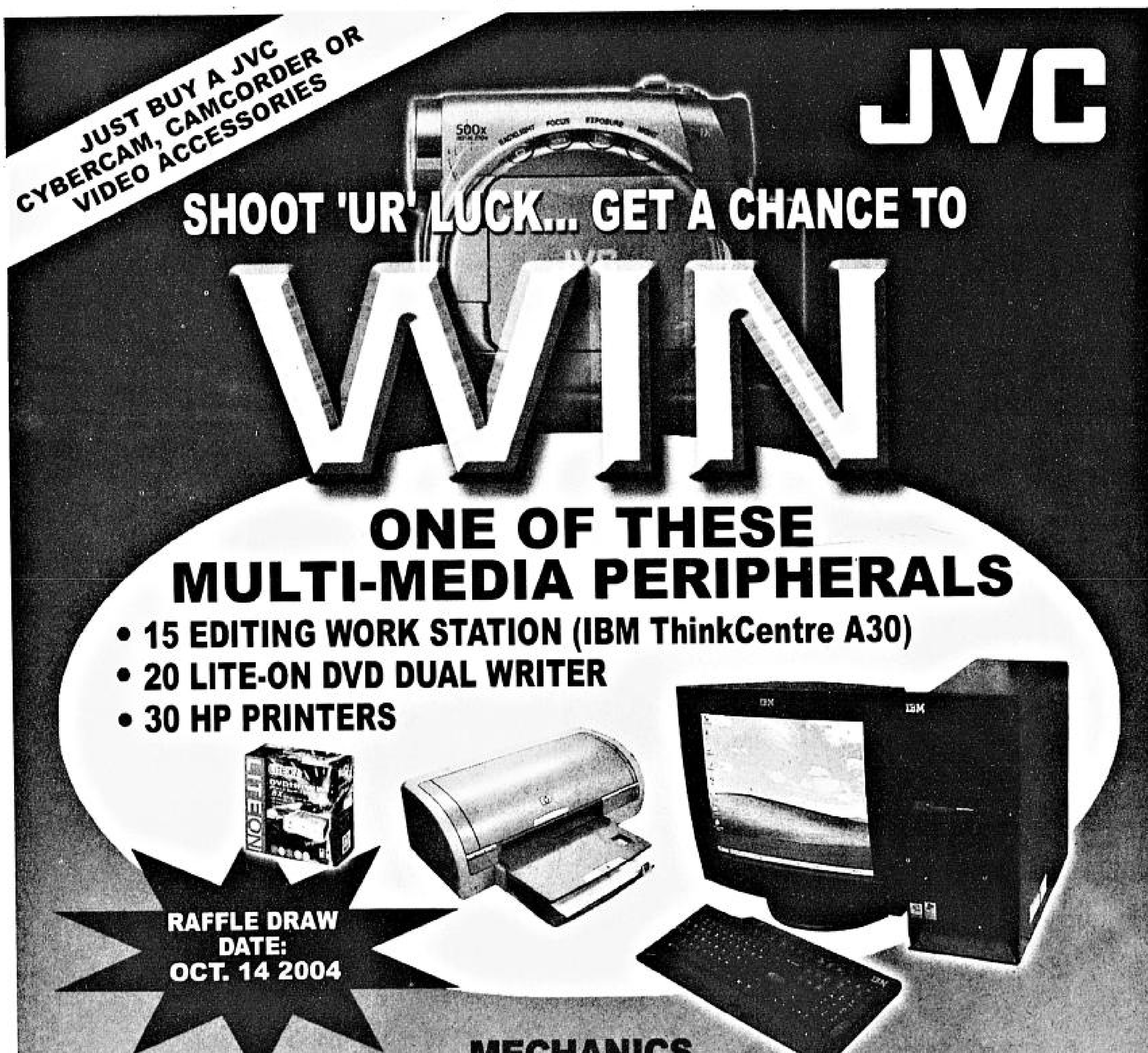

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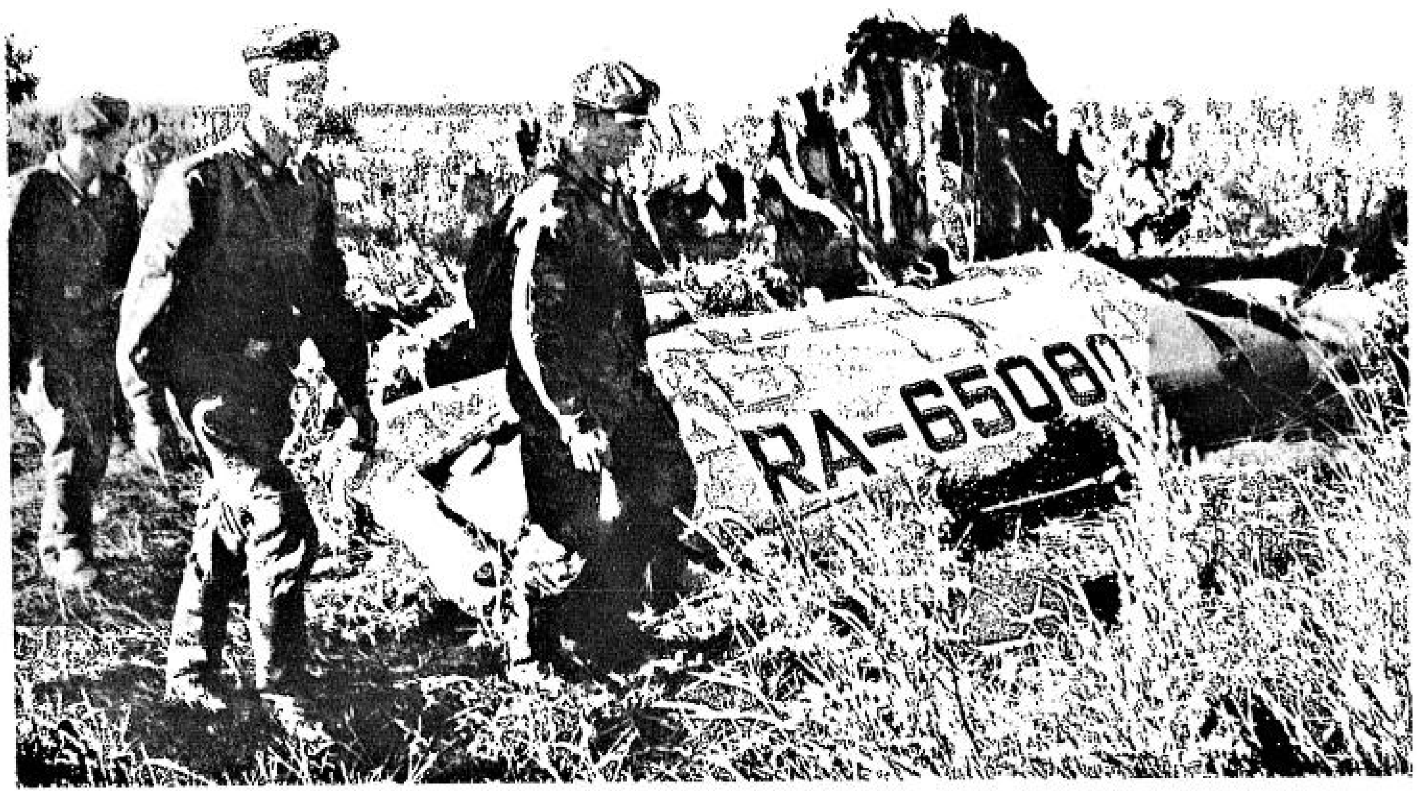
2 Russia planes crash; 89 die

BUCHALKI, Russia—A Russian airliner crashed and another apparently broke up in the air almost simultaneously after taking off from the same airport, killing all 89 people aboard and raising fears of a terrorist attack.



RUSSIAN emergencies ministry servicemen inspect the wreckage of a Russian Tupolev Tu-134 plane near the Tula region Aug. 25. REUTERS

Rescuers found wreckage from a Tu-154 jet with at least 46 on board about nine hours after it issued a distress signal—possibly signaling a hijacking—and disappeared from radar screens over the Rostov region some 1,000 km south of Moscow.

At about the same time the Tu-154 disappeared, a Tu-134 airliner carrying 43 people crashed in the Tula region, about 200 km south of Moscow, officials said. Emergency officials said there were no survivors from either plane.

Officials made conflicting statements about whether the signal from the Tu-154 indicated a hijacking or another severe problem on the aircraft, and a spokesperson for the Federal Security Service (FSB), said an initial investigation at the crash sites had not turned up signs of terrorism.

But the spokesperson, Sergei Ignatchenko, said authorities suspected the crashes were caused by "illegal interference in civil aviation activity," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported, and an FSB duty officer said Ignatchenko had not ruled out terrorism.

The two planes left Moscow's Domodedovo airport within 40 minutes of each other on Tuesday night and disappeared from radar screens in the space of a few minutes around 11 p.m., officials said.

President Vladimir Putin ordered an investigation by the FSB —the nation's main intelligence agency—and police officials said security was being tightened at Russian airports as well as other transport hubs and public places. FSB experts were trying to determine whether explosions proceeded the crashes, the Interfax news agency reported.

Authorities have expressed concern that separatists in war-ravaged Chechnya could carry out attacks linked to this Sunday's election to replace the region's pro-Moscow president, who was killed by a bombing in May. Rebels have been blamed for a series of terror strikes that have claimed hundreds of lives in Russia in recent years.

Witnesses near the site of the Tu-134 crash said they heard what sounded like three explosions, and suspicions of terrorist involvement were compounded when officials said the Sibir airlines Tu-154 that went missing in the Rostov region issued a signal indicating it was being seized.

Sibir said on its website that it had received a message from the shift chief at the military department of a nationwide air traffic control network that said a signal of a seizure had been activated on one of the planes. The company "does not rule out the theory of a terrorist act," it said.

The Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies later quoted an unnamed law enforcement source as saying that the signal was an SOS and that no other signals were sent.

Oleg Yermolov, deputy director of the Interstate Aviation Committee, said that it was impossible to judge what was behind the signal, which merely indicated "a dangerous situation onboard" and could be triggered during a hijacking or a potentially catastrophic technical problem.

Witnesses said there was bad weather overnight at both crash site, separated by hundreds of kilometers.

Interfax said emergency workers spotted a fire in the Rostov region, about 965 km south of Moscow, where the Tu-154 went missing. But rainy weather hampered the search efforts and it was hours before any wreckage was found. A flight data recorder from the plane was recovered, Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu said, according to Interfax. *AP*

High oil price blamed on speculators

NEW DELHI—Kuwait's foreign minister said Wednesday that Middle East oil exporters are producing at maximum capacity to stabilize prices that are being driven up by speculators from outside the region.

Oil prices have soared for weeks as traders worried about the threat of sabotage against the Iraqi oil infrastructure and a possible decline in Russia's oil production.

A rash of buying by institutional investors also contributed to the price rise, fueling concern that crude oil would top $50 per barrel. But the markets have cooled this week and oil prices dropped for a third straight day to $45 per barrel on Tuesday.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheik Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said, however, the price drop was not enough.

"We would like to see stable, lower oil prices. We are producing at maximum capacity, hoping to stabilize the prices," he told reporters.

"The oil prices have been driven up by speculation. It's been driven by people who are outside the region," Sheik Mohammed said. "Still, they are high and the producers are not responsible for this."

Sheik Mohammed was in the Indian capital to sign a framework agreement to start negotiations on a free trade pact with India.

"It is in our interest to increase shipments to India," he said. "We are considering increasing (crude) supplies to India. We are also interested in investing in India's refinery business." *AP*

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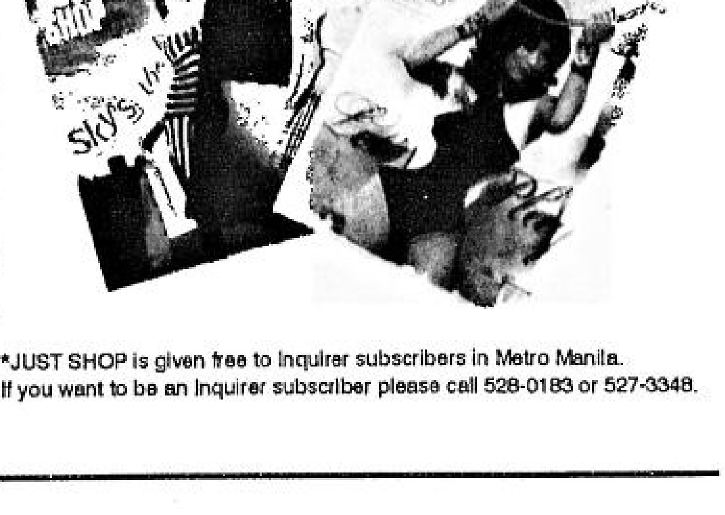

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Top Shiite cleric returns home to end Najaf crisis

NAJAF, Iraq—Iraq's most powerful Shiite cleric arrived home from Britain on Wednesday and his aides called for a nationwide march to Najaf to end nearly three weeks of fierce fighting between US forces and Shiite militants in this holy city.

The announcement came as heavy fighting persisted in Najaf's Old City, the center of much of the past three weeks of clashes. US warplanes fired on the neighborhood, helicopters flew overhead and heavy gunfire was heard in the streets, witnesses said.

Iraqi police sealed off the Old City, preventing cars from entering.

Grand Ayatollah Ali Husseini al-Sistani, 73, has been in London for medical treatment since Aug. 6, one day after clashes erupted in Najaf. The cleric wields enormous influence among Shiite Iraqis and his return could play a crucial role in stabilizing the crisis.

Al-Sistani crossed into southern Iraq from Kuwait about midday in a caravan of sport utility vehicles accompanied by Iraqi police and national guardsmen, according to an Associated Press reporter with the convoy.

"He will return to the holy city of Najaf to rescue it from its ordeal," Hamed al-Khafaf said in an e-mail sent to The Associated Press in Beirut, before al-Sistani's arrival.

In separate violence west of Baghdad, US warplanes and tanks bombed the volatile city of Fallujah for more than two hours, killing at least four people, hospital officials and residents said.

Based in the city are Sunni insurgents who the government believes are responsible for months of kidnappings, bombings and shooting attacks against coalition troops, Iraqi forces and civilians across Iraq.

A Marine spokesperson, Lt. Col. Thomas V. Johnson, said Wednesday that several insurgent "firing positions... have been struck this morning with tank-fire and yes, aircraft were also used against the targets."

Adel Khamis, a doctor at Fallujah General Hospital, said four people were killed and four were wounded in the strikes.

Hours later, witnesses heard sporadic fighting in northern and eastern Fallujah. **AP**

WORLDBRIEFS

Typhoon batters Taiwan capital

TAIPEI—Typhoon "Aere" battered northern Taiwan on Wednesday, triggering a mudslide that buried a family of four as the storm's eye churned toward China, forcing nearly 250,000 people to flee coastal areas. The death toll climbed to 12. Aere was spending most of Wednesday drenching parts of central Taiwan that were prone to deadly flooding and landslides. The storm's outer winds also began lashing southern China, still recovering from Typhoon "Rananim," which killed at least 164 about two weeks ago. A mudslide buried the four family members in their home in Hsinchu County, the National Disaster Relief Center said. Two other people were missing in the landslide in northwest Taiwan, officials said. **AP**

Reward up for Singapore babies

SINGAPORE—Singapore will raise payments to couples who have children, extend maternity leave and take other steps to reverse a drastic slump in the city-state's birth rate, the government announced Wednesday. "Our declining birth rate is an issue of long-term national significance," said Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang. "Efforts to promote parenthood warrant a substantial investment by the government." Under the changes, which will be phased in from next week, the government will offer parents cash and grants totaling S$3,000 (US$1,752) for having their first child, and up to S$18,000 (US$ 10,517) for a fourth. The current rewards of up to S$9,000 (US$5,258) for a second child and S$18,000 for a third will stay in place. Maternity leave will be extended to 12 weeks from eight, and civil servants' work week will be cut to five days from 5 1/2 starting Sept. 1, giving people more time with spouses and families. **AP**

Sex workers mobilized for polls

BANGKOK—Beneath the flashing neon and amid a crush of men roaming Bangkok's best-known red-light district, the Thai capital's sex workers talk tactics and the world's seediest profession. Politics is on tonight's agenda. With campaigning entering its final days, intrigue over the race for Bangkok's governor is reaching a climax in the city's notorious Patpong sex district, and the women believe they have a vested interest in its result. Sex and politics have often proved close bedfellows but rarely so overtly as in Sunday's election for control of arguably the world's sleaziest capital, which features a former massage parlor tycoon and a prominent activist against child prostitution as two of the key candidates. Former massage parlor king Chuwit Kamolvisit, who has admitted he has paid hefty bribes to police and that his venues are fronts for prostitution, has garnered wide publicity for his campaign, although independent Paveena Hongsakul is running as the favorite and has the government's backing. ***Reuters***

Cops arrest son of ex-British PM

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—South African police arrested Mark Thatcher, the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, early Wednesday on allegations he was involved in a plot to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea, police said. Police spokesperson Sipho Ngwema said Thatcher was arrested at his Cape Town home and was expected to be charged with violation of the Foreign Military Assistance Act. "We have evidence, credible evidence, and information that he was involved in the attempted coup," said Ngwema. "We refuse that South Africa be a springboard for coups in Africa and elsewhere." **AP**

Protesters welcome Bush delegates in NY

NEW YORK CITY—In case their discontent isn't already clear, protesters are spelling it out.

"Stop Bush Now" signs and other similar messages against the US president are appearing throughout the city well before delegates arrive for the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday.

Bright blue tarps, painted with glaring yellow letters, are going up on dozens of rooftops in Brooklyn, under the flight paths into busy New York airports. Thousands of delegates and convention guests peering down at the city might see messages like "No more years" and "Re-defeat Bush."

"We just hope that they'll look down and ask themselves, 'Why, why do they feel so strongly? Why is it that New York feels this way?'" said Genevieve Christy, a 57-year-old consultant, who has painted more than 80 banners since thinking of the idea a few weeks ago. **AP**

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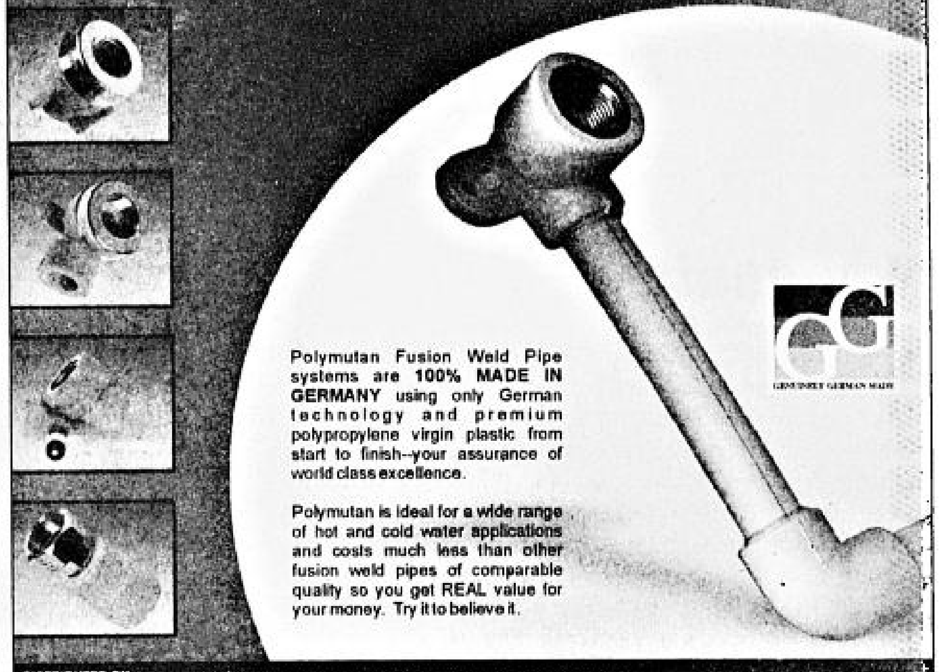

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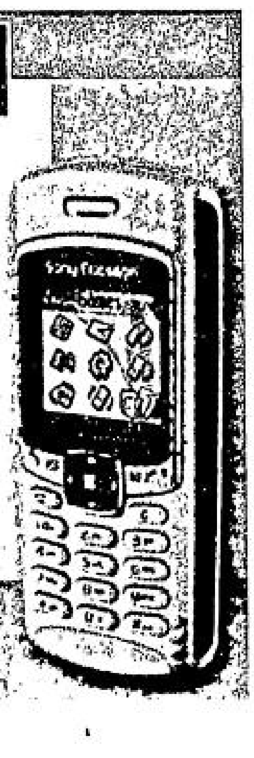

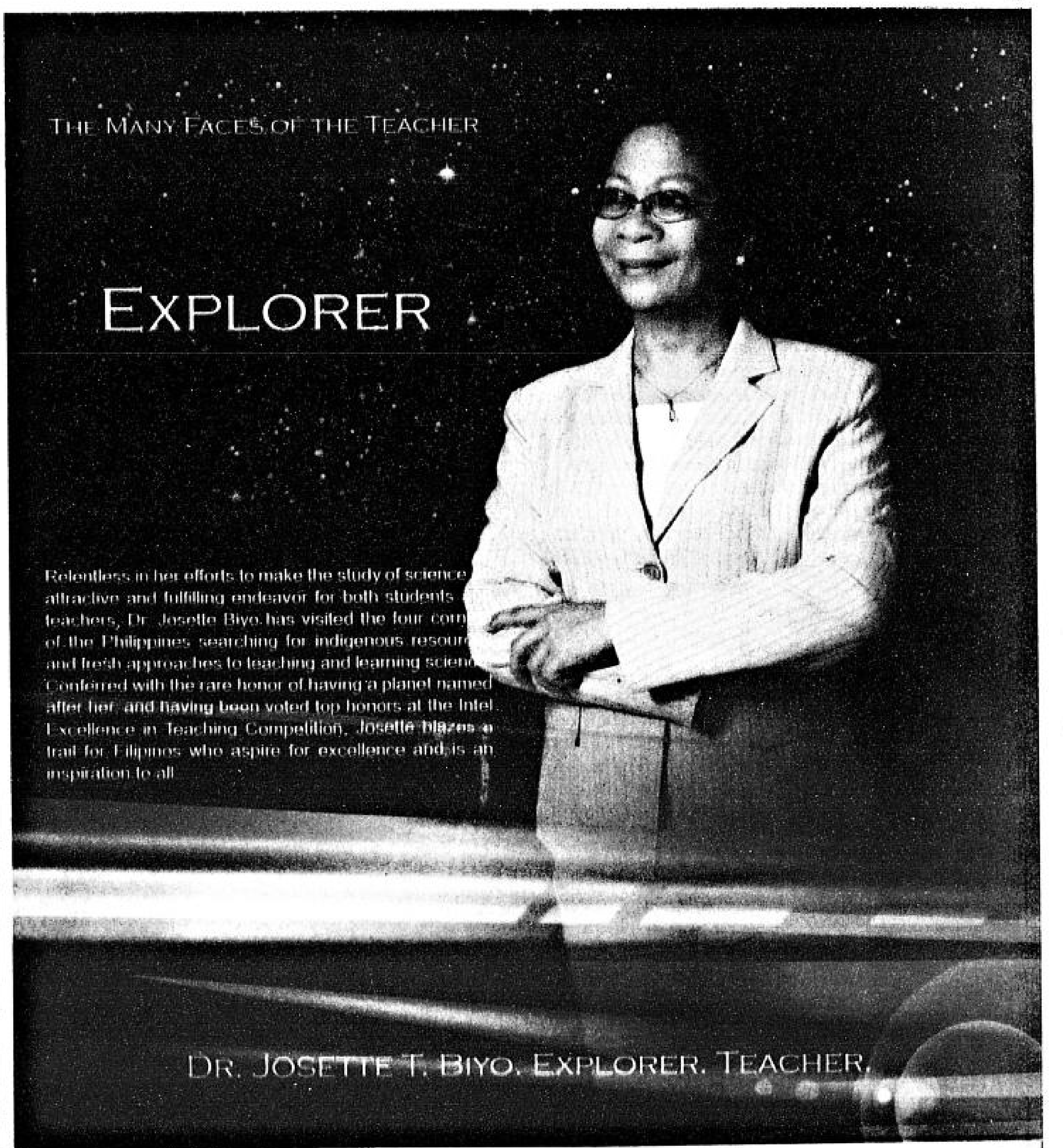
THE MANY FACES OF THE TEACHER
EXPLORER

Relentless in her efforts to make the study of science attractive and fulfilling endeavor for both students teachers, Dr. Josette Biyo has visited the four corn of the Philippines searching for indigenous resour and fresh approaches to teaching and learning scien Conferred with the rare honor of having a planet named after her, and having been voted top honors at the Intel Excellence in Teaching Competition, Josette blazes a trail for Filipinos who aspire for excellence and is an inspiration to all.

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EDITORIALS

Whodunit…

YOU know it's August, or approaching the end of it, when you hear or read stuff about who killed Ninoy Aquino. The assassination is, of course, marked annually—as befitting the turning point of the Marcos dictatorship or, more to the point, the beginning of its end, when the incredulity of the populace that the deed was actually done turned to anger and then swiftly to outrage.

And the recurrence of discussion and speculation on not so much who squeezed the trigger as to who ordered it has become a predictable part of the ritual. It's like an itch that won't go away.

But that's precisely because the matter remains the biggest whodunit in contemporary Philippine history even after 23 years. The conclusion may have been made that Rolando Galman was the gunman, but this has largely been considered laughable, absurdly incomplete, a non-answer to the question that went on to flicker fitfully all these decades and, as now, suddenly leaping and then settling to a steady burn under the weight of the public gaze.

As past experience has shown, what happens is that it's a temporary distraction from life as we have come to know it. Ernesto Herrera, a former lawmaker and a member of the Agrava Fact-Finding Commission, predicts that the attention being trained on the issue of Aquino's murder will wither and die after a week because, as he wryly notes, the people's interest in the truth is "seasonal." Quite so. It can also be that the daily aggravations have become too much to bear that even those old enough to remember and who would insist on keeping the memory alive—if only for the young who, it now turns out, have the vaguest idea of the man whose extinction is being commemorated—are hard put to do so.

How terrible is memory, particularly when it fades.

Yet wasn't it only yesterday when, the Marcos *apparat* having momentarily dithered and then surrendered his body to his mother, he lay in state in his bloodied clothes? When, 10 days after the assassination, throngs defiantly clogged the streets and marched for hours to bury him? Are those searing images—the bruised dead face, the flatbed truck bearing the casket and an avalanche of flowers—now lost to time?

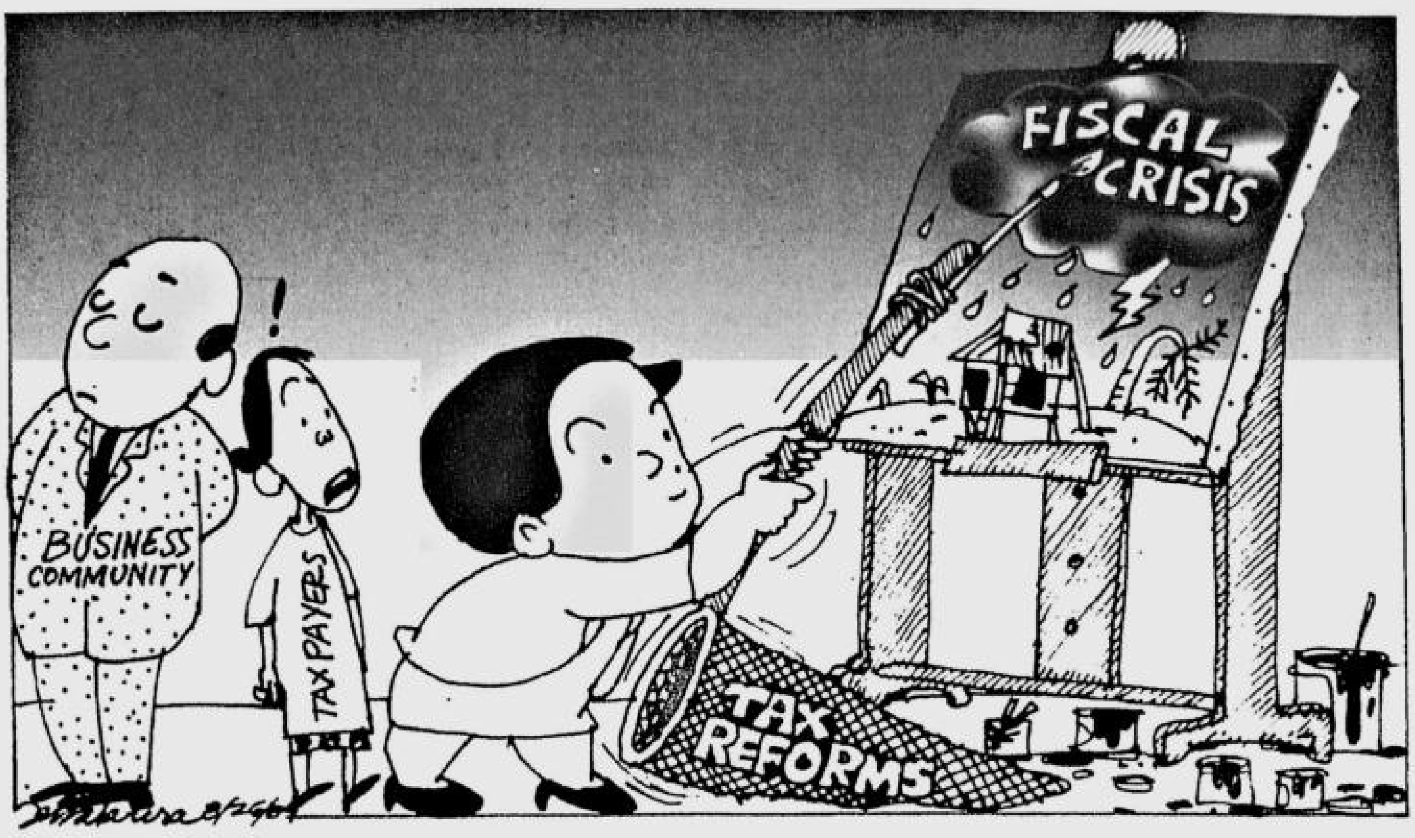
…In August

AS THOUGH in keeping with the yearly rite of commemoration, one of the soldiers convicted of Ninoy Aquino's murder has submitted a sworn statement to the Public Attorney's Office saying a close Aquino relative was the mastermind. The PAO has also since announced that a number of civilian witnesses—including one who purportedly witnessed the killing and another offering to examine the trajectory of the critical bullet—have signified intent to tell all. These admittedly constitute stale ground, *déjà vu* to the max, to speak nothing of the curious, even exasperating, timing. But with the resolution of the case still to be desired, it will not do for the state to respond with complete indifference. Both the PAO and the Department of Justice are correct to stipulate that new and credible evidence will have to be presented before the reopening of the case can even be considered.

M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez has not named the supposed relative but his affidavit has triggered speculation—some would call it a trial balloon—that the person in question is Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Cory Aquino's cousin and a close Marcos associate. Indeed, after all these years Marcos loyalist Alexander Villalon has sworn to have overheard Cojuangco boast in 1986 that he had Aquino killed.

Now what is the attentive observer to make of all these noises sounding in August? Is there a conceivable point to be made from the fact that Cojuangco—the usual suspect—chairs the giant San Miguel Corp., which happens to be as prosperous as any private company can hope to be in a country gripped by huge money problems?

That prickly point aside, the question has to be asked: What truth can reasonably be expected from soldiers who, in the general scheme of things, are there merely to be ordered? No, the truth about this murder most foul will not come from them because it is almost certain that they do not know it. The truth will come from holders of power, whether in or out of the government. Some are dead now, there's the pity, but until the others talk, the whodunit will continue to be a ceremony in August.



Bitter truth anyone?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MINT-NEW Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz's interview with INQUIRER's Alcuin Papa ranged from overhauling the Armed Forces into a "lean and mean" machine to dismantling graft-riddled procurement systems.

Buried in that so-so conversation was an unexpected item: formation of a "Truth Commission"—18 years after martial law collapsed. Victims of the dictatorship's abuses would get an opportunity to "prove their claims to compensation," Cruz said. Is it all about cash then? "This is a matter of justice, not obligation," he explained.

This we have to see. "In this country, it seems everything is infinitely negotiable and the truth frequently becomes whatever pleases the powers that be," Dr. Alfredo Bengzon noted at a September 1999 conference on collapsed dictatorships. "Our collective memory seems to be a blank slate for the powerful to write on," Bengzon told the "Memory, Truth-Telling and Pursuit of Justice" meeting organized by Ateneo and Wisconsin universities. But truth remains the foundation for national healing and all must "simply speak truth to power."

For some despots, the truth, in the end, proved brutal. Italy's Benito Mussolini and his mistresses were strung upside down. Cambodia's Pol Pot beat the gallows by illness.

In the search for closure, other countries chose truth commissions to books, museums—and courts.

"What does one do … to uncover the facts, to give the nameless dead their true names and decent burials, to identify and perhaps prosecute the perpetrators?" asked Institute on Church and Social Issues' John Carroll, S.J. "Other nations have gone to great lengths to face their pasts … and reaffirm values violated, as an assurance this will never happen again."

In South Africa, Bishop Desmond Tutu anchored a Truth Commission. It uncovered abuses, reaching even Winnie Mandela, wife of apartheid's bravest foe, Nelson Mandela.

The Protestant and Catholic churches in Brazil documented and published the searing report, "Brazil: Nunca Mais." The mound of skulls of victims in the Tuol Sleng museum is Cambodia's version of "Brazil: Never Again."

Under the "New Society," the Philippines became "a gulag of safe houses" where the dictator's torturers held sway, Amnesty International noted. But there was never an accounting. Martial law anniversaries were marked then, by presidential decree, as "National Thanksgiving Day."

"The trauma of the Marcos terror became embedded in the Philippine institutional fabric," Prof. Alfred McCoy writes in Yale University's "Closer Than Brothers." "The Philippines seems caught in a long nightmare between remembering and forgetting."

Instead, there has been a deliberate effort to make sure we forget. Thus, historian Ambeth Ocampo, for example, notes that history textbooks in public schools are "Orwellian": they present jack-booted suppression as democratic.

Martial law "was one of the best things that happened," Madame Imelda Marcos said in a 1999 interview. "It was a peaceful provision to ensure peace for our country. *Tayo ang nagligtas ng demokrasya*….Why should I apologize for godly acts?"

Just before his soused presidency crumbled, Joseph Estrada counseled: "Forget martial law. Let us instead move on."

Refusal to remember embeds injustice. Falsification of history invites repeated abuse. No one is held accountable. Amnesia prevents national healing. Systematic distortion of facts about the brutal dictatorship aborts reforms.

"The advent of elected rule" in Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay saw the "battle for memory" start, noted Louis Bickford of Wisconsin's Global Studies Program. There were two schools of thought.

One called for confronting the past. Unearthing the truth made accountability and democracy possible. Remembering creates deterrence. *Nunca mais.* The second downplayed the past and denied the abuses. It called for "moving forward" and "leaving the past behind."

The second school resounds in the "forgive and forget" suggestions often aired in the Philippines, Bickford notes. Numerous studies done on violent crimes show that victims and their families are almost always unable to forgive until they receive public acknowledgment. This usually is an apology by the perpetrator.

"There is no such thing as forgiving and forgetting," Bickford asserts. "The two are mutually exclusive." Pope John Paul II forgave his would-be killer, Ali Agca, in Rebbedia prison. But he never asked for his release.

The secretary must amplify this proposal because "history is like wood," as Malcolm Muggeridge wrote. It has "a grain which determines how it splits." Filipinos have had little stomach for demanding an accounting, especially among the so-called elite.

Only 17 were convicted among the 5,000-plus charged as World War II collaborators. The Marcoses returned with their wealth intact. None of the "Rolex 12" was punished. In fact, martial law bouncer Juan Ponce Enrile was again elected senator.

Nonetheless, we wish Cruz well. "All of us must open our hearts to human memory," Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel insisted at the Auschwitz-Birkeneau death camp memorial rites. "I do not want my past to become the future of our children's generation."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Closer than we think

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M glad the UP economists themselves have begun furiously ringing the alarm bells on a ship that is headed straight for the iceberg. Unfortunately, the ship isn't the Titanic, built to withstand any peril at sea, but a battered craft that threatens to sink at the slightest downturn of the weather. Even more unfortunately, everyone, the captain included, is lost in a deep slumber.

Unbeknownst to most everyone, or ignored by them, the UP economists say, the country is headed for collapse in a couple of years, like the one that befell Argentina.

I wrote about this last week after reading and hearing several people warn about it over the past year. The figures are scary and the prospects exceedingly bleak. Roberto de Ocampo hit the nail on the head when he said you didn't have to believe in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (he doesn't, and did not vote for her) to want to pitch in to help in what is bound to be a mighty effort to stave off this impending catastrophe. To balk at this on partisan grounds is to cut off your nose to spite your face.

I myself can only hope the people who are issuing these warnings do not end up like Cassandra who can foretell the future but is doomed never to be believed. This country, with its notorious penchant for doing things in the "last two minutes," has a prodigious way of turning soothsayers into Cassandras.

The culprit in our case is our debt—foreign and local (the local is now as huge as the foreign)—which has grown to a mind-boggling P3.36 trillion at the end of last year. To pay for that debt, government is currently spending 42.6 percent of its revenues. That is a crippling sum, up from 26.5 percent five years ago, which was only a little more than a fourth of the budget. This has caused, as Ben Diokno, who is one of the signatories of the paper produced by the UP economists, points out, spending on infrastructure to fall from P96.5 billion in 1999 to only P49.7 billion in 2003, and spending on health and education from 3.4 percent of GDP in 1999 to 2.8 percent of GDP last year. That means fewer roads and less educated minds in a country that cannot afford to lose either. Which means falling growth in the long term for a country that can afford it even less.

The solution to a problem like this is obvious, but is the hardest thing to do. As with a family facing bankruptcy from living a profligate lifestyle, spending more than it earns, and from having to deal with the motorcycle-riding neighborhood "five-six" operator who is more stridently and threateningly demanding payment for his loans, the solution is to change the lifestyle. The solution is to earn more, spend less, and get everyone in the family, the black sheep included, to cooperate in the collective effort. That's the part that's not so easy.

The INQUIRER's report a couple of weeks ago noting that the regional trial courts had dismissed a total of 15 cases against companies that had fraudulently acquired tax credit certificates for lack of the Bureau of Customs' interest in prosecuting them abundantly shows so. The cases amount to P2 billion, suggesting not just ineptitude on the part of Customs officials but outright corruption. That is just the tip of the iceberg, as proven by the fact that from 1997 to 2003, tax collection fell from 17 percent of GDP to only 12.5 percent. Juan Ponce Enrile may not be the favorite senator particularly of those who went through martial law, but he speaks for many Filipinos when he demands to know why, "if this is the way we are handling…tax cheats, we just burden our people with new taxes."

I remember in this respect the dilemma faced by those who supported Raul Roco's candidacy in the last elections. His camp did not lack for those who lamented his refusal to accept campaign contributions from vested interests with big money, which appeared to doom his presidential bid for lack of finances and from the perception of powerbrokers that he did not have the backing of the rich and famous. But it did not lack either for those who thought it was a reasonable price to pay: there was no point in winning at the cost of being beholden to people whose first demand for return-on-investment would be to have their tax dues "lightened."

That was the price GMA was not willing to pay. Her entire campaign rested on compromise at a level that had no precedent. Which raises questions about the first part of the solution, which is raising income. Whom does she tax to death to bring to life a dying economy?

As to spending less, the UP economists recommend among other things slashing to one-half the pork barrel funds. But as it turns out, even the party-list representatives themselves, who come from people's and non-government organizations, want to have "their due" in full.

My own worry, which I expressed last week, is that most of the current elected officials got to be elected by spending a fortune campaigning, not the least of them GMA, who went through the PCSO and Pagcor with a vacuum cleaner. I cannot see how people would spend a fortune to become senator or congressman or governor or mayor just so they would have the privilege of serving the people. And I do not know that the first instinct of newly elected officials is to live austerely.

A catastrophe awaits us, and I for one would not mind seeing another round of people power to remove the incompetent and venal if that is what it will take to avert it. Our children's future is at stake here. The UP economists themselves calculate that it will take two years for disaster to strike, but we would do well to take it from the sign on the rearview mirror that says: "Objects are closer than they appear."

It's closer than we think.

Sharing the fiscal burden

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S good that professors of the UP School of Economics came out with the warning a few days ago that a crash of the economy could come within two or three years if the government fails to control its ballooning budget deficit. Actually a few legislators have been warning about this scenario. One was House appropriations committee chair Rolando Andaya Jr., who proposed a summit on the eve of the opening of Congress, to be participated in by the executive and legislative branches, the business community, NGOs and the media, in order to focus on the fiscal crisis. Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House economic affairs committee, also rang the alarm bells. Unfortunately their efforts were ignored due to the intense jockeying for positions within the two chambers of Congress in the past few weeks.

The academics' warning has prodded President Macapagal-Arroyo to openly speak about the "fiscal crisis" the country is facing. This, in turn, has prompted the Senate to set aside other matters and focus on the related problems of our P200-billion budget deficit and our P3.36 trillion debt, the servicing of which will eat up one-third of the P901-billion 2005 national budget.

* * *

To my mind, the solution of our fiscal problem has to involve not only the executive and legislative branches but the entire nation. It calls for a lot of discipline, sacrifice and patriotism on everyone's part. Recall how the Thai people reacted to the 1997 Asian financial crisis which was the worst hit in the region. Many Thais, both the rich and the ordinary, came forward with their gold and jewelry and donated them to the government to keep their country afloat. Thai legislators and bureaucrats also agreed to take pay cuts. We cannot be any less patriotic.

* * *

On the part of the executive branch, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who is its purse-keeper, says the government will enforce cost-cutting measures and streamline its offices. She also cautioned government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to avoid incurring loses. The administration is said to be mulling over the idea of seeking emergency powers that would enable it to suspend a portion of the 30 percent internal revenue allotment (IRA) to local governments. But just so that the LGUs will not scream, the executive department has to show leadership by example. It has already done a lot in this regard, but more can be done. Recall that GMA stated in her State of the Nation Address that she had abolished 80 offices under the Office of the President and would abolish 30 more. In line with fiscal discipline, the government should review the operation of RP offices abroad (which are dollar-funded) such as embassies and consulates and the offices of various attachés, and see which posts can be trimmed while the country is in a fiscal crisis.

* * *

With regard to the LGUs, former Finance Secretary Lito Camacho suggested in a recent interview that perhaps the LGUs could become more fiscally independent by making them finance their own development programs, instead of relying on the cash-strapped national government. This is a good idea. Certainly there are very wealthy LGUs, but there are also very poor ones whose operations, until now, remain almost completely subsidized by the national government. Just a thought: Is it possible that the more affluent LGUs could agree to convert the reduction in their IRA into IOUs from the national government? In this way, government's fiscal problem can be alleviated, while the hard-up LGUs, such as those from the Club 20 poorest provinces, can continue to receive support.

* * *

With regard to the GOCCs, it's not enough that they should not incur losses, as Boncodin admonishes, they should also trim a lot of excess fat and perks. For instance, it's no secret that some heads of GOCCs earn more than some of the highest paid Makati executives, even if their firms are saddled with government-guaranteed debts. This has come about because when a new GOCC chief comes in, he gets the pay of his predecessor at the "departure point," which already includes longevity pay and performance-based increases. Such a situation is plainly anomalous and should not be allowed, crisis or no crisis. In fact, some of the GOCCs have become notorious for their lack of transparency and the failure of the executive branch to exercise oversight function in the interest of good corporate governance.

* * *

On the part of Congress, it ought to pass the "sin taxes" right away on alcohol and cigarettes, which are expected to bring in P14 billion in revenue. Speaker Jose de Venecia told me recently that the House would definitely pass again these tax measures, but I hope the Senate, which sat on them in the past Congress, will act faster this time.

Moreover, if the LGUs will bear part of the fiscal burden by having their IRAs reduced, perhaps more members of Congress could be coaxed to also take a cut in their pork barrel allocations and office perks, such as travels abroad. Orchids to the first nine senators, led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, who have agreed to cut their pork barrel allocations by 50 percent. May their tribe increase.

* * *

But the members of Congress would be more easily persuaded to sacrifice if the executive branch would do a better job of collecting the right taxes. Again, this involves the cooperation of the business community. Do we hear from them that they will pay the correct taxes? *Ganyan lang 'yan—bigayan.* If politicians on the local and national levels share the burden of fiscal cuts, we can be sure the citizens will not begrudge the added sacrifices they'll be made to bear.

Ben of the 'lumad'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HIS search for meaning, his taking to the less-traveled road, and his encountering the light at last, among mostly forgotten people—these could only come straight out of a continuing divine plot that has yet to fully unravel. The experience thrills him, fills him with awe and thanksgiving.

Benjamin "Ben" Abadiano, 41, is this year's recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership. In electing him, the RM Award Foundation "recognizes his steadfast commitment to indigenous Filipinos and their hopes for peace and better lives consonant with their distinctive tradition and hallowed ways of life."

I met Ben last year when I interviewed him for a front-page feature. I had learned about him from Sr. Victricia Pascasio of the Holy Spirit Sisters whose work among the Alangan Mangyans Ben had helped expand.

Twice I had been among the Mangyans before Ben went there to stay, and I had seen what it was like. Now, I am told, things have changed so much for the better that I wouldn't recognize the place if I wandered into it.

Born in 1963, Ben was raised by his grandparents. The circumstances of his birth are the stuff of prime-time TV dramas but that is another story. He finished sociology at Cagayan de Oro's Xavier University where a Tingguian anthropologist, Dr. Erlinda Burton, opened his eyes to the world of the *lumad* or indigenous peoples (IP).

Ben recalled the first time he spent three weeks with a Manobo community in Bukidnon where water was scarce. "Every day I would be given *isang* Caltex (a liter) of water for my use." The Manobo fashioned for him a bed shaped like a coffin and suspended in midair like a hammock. He was amazed at the *lumad's* simplicity.

"When that was over," Ben said, "I went straight to the beach and soaked in the sea the whole day. I knew I had experienced a transition and I wanted to devote my life to the IP."

Ben headed for Mindoro to look up a former classmate working with the Mangyans and the Holy Spirit sisters who ran a school as well as livelihood and environmental projects at the edge of the forest. He stayed for nine years. He asked for nothing except food and a roof over his head. He organized the youth and helped put up Tugdaan (which means seedbed), a training school where the Mangyans learned not only the three R's but also how to tap into their native genius to improve their lives. Ben's most avid supporter was Sister Victricia, a veteran in the field.

Tugdaan is now a major hub in Paitan. There, Mangyans learn about livelihood projects. It is also where many of their indigenous produce are developed and tested.

Ben was about to get married when the religious call made itself felt again. The Jesuits who had earlier refused him entry were tracking him down. Ben had reached a crossroads. He wanted to give more. "The thought made me shed tears of joy. I felt as if grace was raining down on me."

Ben said goodbye to Mindoro and to a sociologist who would have been his wife. By the time he left the Mangyans, Tugdaan was well on its way. He entered the novitiate, did philosophy at the Ateneo, even pronounced his vows as a Jesuit. Ordination to the priesthood was still far down the road.

Then something stirred inside Ben that told him he had to go back to his first love: the IP. Before his 30-day retreat was over, Ben had already discerned where God was leading him. He left the Jesuits to make a path of his own. He had nothing except dreams and a song in his heart.

"Perhaps I was really meant for community work," Ben said. It was not coincidence that he ended up with the Assisi Development Foundation Inc. (ADFI) headed by Ambassador Howard Dee.

Ben is ADFI's consultant for Tabang Mindanaw and program coordinator for peace building. He is also the founder and moving force behind Ilawan Center for Peace and Development.

But minus the titles and the institutions he represents, Ben is, by himself, a remarkable human being, Filipino, Christian. Organizer, inspirer, trainer, educator, troubleshooter, dreamer, doer. A man for others.

Ben was made in charge of the program for the IP and also coordinator of Tabang's Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program (IRRP). He was instrumental in turning 47 communities in Maguindanao, Cotabato and Lanao del Sur into "sanctuaries of peace." Tabang Mindanaw's IRRP formulated a nine-stage peace-building process for war-torn Central Mindanao and its displaced communities.

Peace-building starts at the evacuation sites, explained Ben. "We gather data, demographics. We meet with local leaders, datus, barangay and prayer leaders, tribal elders. The goal is to build trust. The evacuees must feel that efforts are sincere."

Ben is not one to rest in green pastures. The light must be shared, not hidden under a bushel. The Ilawan Center for Peace and Sustainable Development is one medium for that sharing of the light. Ilawan means holder of light. Explained Ben: "We desire to be a light for others, especially the poor and the marginalized."

Ilawan started as a dream of friends doing mission and who had a great desire to serve. Small groups would gather, along with lay workers and missionaries, to share their life experiences. In the process, they found out that they had something in common: "the desire to share and express love for Christ by working among the marginalized communities."

Religious and priests whose zeal is on "low batt" should feel inspired and revived by these young visionaries.

Ben said the love of his grandparents (who died when he was 13) stoked the passion in him. "Where does that passion come from? From the feeling of gratefulness, of being blessed. You have to share your best."

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Basic solutions

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

PERSONALLY, I am for a four-year presidential term with one re-election. I am against the abolition of the Senate, even if the current Senate is the most deplorable in our history. I am against restoring senatorial districts, or increasing the number of senators, because campaign expense laws can take care of limiting the cost of a national campaign, and having 24 senators has served us well in the past and is a good number. I do believe the only way the Senate can be rejuvenated is to restore block voting for national positions.

I am neutral when it comes to term limits for members of Congress, seeing that it has led to old crooks leaving and their younger, brighter and too-rich-to-worry-about-stealing children taking their place. But then again, if a constituency wants to elect the same person to the same seat for eternity I am inclined to let them do so, particularly in the Senate, where we certainly did well with having some eternals there such as Lorenzo Tañada and Amang Rodriguez.

On the other hand, if the grouchiness and lack of recognition of the traditions persist, the Senate will become the best reason for experimenting with a parliamentary system. Since the administration of Estrada, the real leadership and reformist elements have been found not in the Senate, but in the House. At present, all the good ideas are coming from the House, not the Senate.

I have also said time and again that it is not less politics that we need, but better politics; not fewer politicians, but indeed more politicians. We need better-crafted laws and an appreciation of the fact that politics permeates all our lives, whatever our occupations, and the first ones who should admit this are the academics who perpetually whine that there is too much "politics." From what I have heard, the academic departments of our universities practice the sort of politics that would shock even our shameless members of Congress.

My father explained it better than I ever can, way back in 1967, when he wrote in a weekly magazine:

"Our pre-Spanish society was made up of three classes—slaves, freemen, and nobles. An aristocratic society, in other words. It was not what the Europeans call an absolute monarchy—it seems that a more highly developed state of affairs is necessary for that. The long years under Spanish rule did nothing to destroy the social mentality that went with such a pre-Spanish society, although the legal status of slave had been abolished.

"I can remember very well the pre-war relationship of servants to masters—from what I have read of the relationship between slave and master in pre-Spanish days, I gather there was not much difference between the two relationships.

"Before any of my readers feel indignant at this observation, let me point out that the type of slavery to which our minds spontaneously turn when the word is mentioned is the Roman and the American type. That kind of slavery seems never to have existed on our shores.

"Slaves were truly part of the household, part of the family—at least so our older historians assured us. It was a very strongly paternalistic relationship. Obviously, that sort of relationship, although it may at times be very touching when found in master and servant, transforming the relationship into one of parent and child, is hardly conducive to the kind of relationship of equality which a democratic mentality thrives on.

"The general reliance of the Filipino on the wisdom and goodness of those above him on the political, social and economic ladder, which was transferred from the *maginoo* class to the Spanish rulers, then to the American rulers, finally to the Filipinos who replaced them, is also, to say the least, not very conducive to a truly democratic mentality and democratic attitudes.

"This explains in large part why so many of our politicians, when holding office, do not really feel that they can be called to account for any of their actions. It also explains why public office and public property are so often treated as personal belongings, almost as something which is by right in the family.

"Thus, we hold on to a title long after the position has been relinquished. The manner in which we treat our public officials is another indication of an undemocratic mentality—we refer to them very impertinently when they are not around, and yet when they do make an appearance, we practically fall on our faces before them. It is not the dignified respect which implies self-respect...

"Some will of course say that the aggressiveness of the underprivileged Filipino is a proof of the spread of a truly democratic mentality. I challenge the allegation.

"The aggressiveness of the under-privileged Filipino is no different from that of his fellow countrymen, only aggravated—it is of the chip-on-the-shoulder variety, which again is not indicative of the self-assurance as to equality which is part and parcel of the democratic mind.

"Perhaps if truly serious studies were made of the gap between our ideal of government and our Constitution, on the one hand, and our political practices and our mentality, on the other, it would become clear why our government is and has been a failure in many respects. It would then be easier to assess the situation in order to make whatever adjustments are necessary to make our democratic ideals a reality, instead of something we run after yet never quite seem to grasp. It would be possible to bring our mentality fully in line with our professed ideals."

There it is, in a nutshell. It's not the system that's a problem it's some of us that are the problem. Think of the only ex-president who even has the gall of suggesting he should be president again.

Ballerina

YOUNG BLOOD

Diana Emlano

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I was a child, I wanted to become a ballerina. I was seven when I saw a Russian prima ballerina perform on TV. That very day, I knew I was meant to dance in a pink tutu and make perfect curtsies. Financial constraints, however, made my dream of wearing pink leotards and pink tights vanish quickly.

With my dream of curtsying in front of an audience awed by my performance gone, I turned my attention to other things. I tried playing basketball and volleyball to kill my desire for grace and elegance. After a few years, I studied modern jazz and folk dances but I never got over my enchantment with ballet.

Our family finances must have improved by then for Dad enrolled my younger sister Kaycee in a ballet school. I envied her a lot.

One day I volunteered to fetch her after her ballet lessons. I arrived early at the gym. When I went inside, I saw my sister doing floor exercises. She was looking intently at the teacher and following every instruction. I saw her magically transformed into the ballerina I have always wanted to become. Her form was perfect, her proud neck stretched magnificently in a swan-like pose. Her shoulders were relaxed but elegantly firm. On that day, my desire to tiptoe in a tutu was completely obliterated. I knew that it was Kaycee who deserved to be the ballerina after all.

Some time last year, I was surprised to see a friend whom I had not seen since high school. After graduation, I had gone to Los Baños while he pursued his dream of becoming a pilot. Now after almost four years without seeing each other, we accidentally bumped into each other in a fast-food outlet.

I thought little about our brief encounter. But to my surprise, he had gotten my number from a common friend and started calling me. We were really close before so at first his frequent calls were not really that special or even surprising. We saw each other a couple of times before we became an item.

Distance was a serious problem but it was not enough to extinguish the flame. We rarely got to see each other because of our tight schedules, but I never doubted our love for each other.

The last time we got together, we decided to walk around the campus. He was playing tourist with me as the guide. We sat down at the waiting shed in front of Vetmed for almost four hours, we passed by the Catalan compound thrice, I showed him the Pegarao twice, I told him about the banana-coconut tree near the Coop and we checked out the Oblation four times and he was still there. I asked him what else he wanted to see, and he shook his head.

Suddenly he asked me if I loved him. I almost fainted. I told him I wouldn't have walked with him around the campus for hours wearing my favorite high-heeled sandals if I didn't consider him special. He laughed in his Johnny Depp kind of way.

He asked me if I could possibly wait for him. For how long? I asked. Four years, he said.

I asked him if he was worth the wait. He said yes and told me that all he needed was my complete trust.

Before the night was through, I said yes. He brought me home and before I went in, he kissed me and reminded me of our deal. He promised to see me as soon as he could.

I could not sleep that night, as pictures of us together kept popping in my head. I was really happy.

The day before Christmas last year, I had not heard anything from him for almost a month. I was becoming worried that something bad had happened to him. My friends learned about my problem, so they invited me out to get my mind off him. I said yes because I did not want to spend my holidays brooding.

My mood gradually lightened as I walked along the same park we had walked in a month earlier. Then I felt my friend pinching my arm. When I turned around, I saw him walking behind us. My heart leaped and butterflies started to swarm in my stomach. Until I saw a girl clinging to his arm.

My smile faded in an instant. Before I could turn away, he was at my side. I did not know what to do. I just stood there and hoped that the second Deluge would come. He took my hands and told me he would see me later in our house. He probably expected me to make a scene.

I felt my cheeks turning red like someone was trying hard not to be embarrassed on stage before thousands of eyes. The conditions surrounding my performance would not allow me to smile. Just like a Russian ballet where smiling is not allowed, I was required to keep my lips in a straight, tight line. I put my foot forward and positioned myself for the fifth position. I wanted to hit his face with one swift sweep of my hand but my body would not do it probably because I had been immobilized by something akin to stage fright.

After a while, the glare was not as frightening as before. I straightened up myself. I felt him squeeze my hand and I took it swiftly yet gracefully, just like the way my sister used to do to her partner in their floor exercises.

A moment later, the girl came over and stood behind him. When I finally opened my mouth, I asked him who she was. He muttered an incomprehensible answer, so the girl introduced herself. He said a lot of things but his voice trailed off somewhere and I caught nothing of what he said.

I felt hot tears starting to sting my eyes. The next thing I knew I was gently taking his hand from the girl's hand and touching it lightly. I pulled him closer and wished him a merry Christmas.

I pirouetted slowly, careful not to stumble and cautious about the necessity of not looking back. I walked away. And away from the limelight, I allowed my tears to roll. I knew our story was over.

I felt my heart beating rapidly inside my chest. I wanted so much to look back and look at him for the last time, but my proud neck would not allow it. My shoulders wanted to shake but they remained calm. My hands wanted to fly and land on his face, but they remained firmly on my sides. My knees wanted to buckle but they held me up beautifully. I wanted to turn around but my feet remained pointed in the opposite direction.

As the inches separating us grew, I realized how gracefully I was exiting from the scene. My friends clapped like an audience awed by my performance.

The realization of how I had maintained my composure and grace in front of him was overwhelming. As I listened to my friends praise me for a perfect performance, the idea hit me that for one brief moment, I had become the ballerina I had always wanted to be.

But I did not know ballerinas cry during curtain calls.

Diana Emlano, 22, works as an instructor in a college in Laguna.

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Tax on patriotism, anyone?

WE support the idea to use text messaging in reporting government corruption to the Office of the Ombudsman. Unfortunately, there is another administration proposal that could undermine this great idea. Because of the widespread protest against the proposal for a direct tax on text messaging, the government is turning to other means, like imposing a tax on the "windfall profits" of telecommunications firms.

But where would the so-called "windfall profits" come from? Still, from text messaging! A different collar for the same dog, another name for the same animal. But a skunk by any other name stinks as bad.

So let not the government fool the people. It asks the people to support the government drive against corruption through text messaging, but imposes an additional tax on the practice, thus discouraging citizen cooperation in the drive against corruption. It's a Catch 22. You do a patriotic duty but end up penalized for doing so.

A word of counsel for the government. If it wants to raise more revenues to solve the deficit, it should tax luxuries and not necessities. For the rich, the sky is the limit. But for the poor, the limit is down on earth, where if one digs deeper, the hole that is made could end up as a grave.

—CARLA M. GULANES,
Surigao City

DENR's side on dump controversy

THIS refers to the series of news articles about the Navotas Controlled Dumpsite Facility, which appeared in the INQUIRER these past two months. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources assures the public that the facility is being strictly monitored for compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and other environmental laws.

Even before the controlled dump started to operate in 2002, we already established baseline data on the quality of the water upstream, downstream and surrounding the facility. Last July 2003, when pollution issues were raised, the DENR organized a composite team—composed of technical representatives from the DENR, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Health, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, NGOs (Pamamalakaya, Siyap), and the local governments of Obando arid Navotas—to monitor the water quality. The team's findings showed that the quality of water upstream, downstream and around the areas adjacent to the facility did not register any significant changes from the baseline data established before its operation. The team continuously monitors the quality of water at the site and adjacent water bodies up to now.

The exceedances of some effluent standards cannot be blamed on the dump; these occur even in upstream waters. (We are trying to identify the sources of pollution so that we can take the appropriate action.) Even so, the DENR sees to it that mitigating measures are being implemented properly.

On the odor problem, this is largely caused by biodegradable waste that gets mixed with other kinds of waste and is brought to the facility. Also, the waste, while in transit, is covered by a "*trapal*"; so it gets no ventilation and an anaerobic condition sets in. When the cover is removed at the site, all the smell is released. To address this problem, the local government of Navotas has committed to enforce waste segregation at source.

Biodegradable waste will not be brought to the facility. Instead, Phileco has committed to compost the biodegradable waste at the transfer station in Pier 18. Only after it is stable and has become compost will it be delivered to the Navotas dump. Should this not be enough, the possible use of a biogas digester is being considered.

To prevent the anaerobic condition, nets will be used to cover the waste instead of a "*trapal.*" This will still ensure that the waste materials are adequately covered and will not get blown off into the river. A *trapal* will still be on board to cover the waste in case it rains.

To further minimize the odor, Phileco is coordinating with Mapecon for the application of organic deodorizer and insect killer.

As we try out all these measures, we will continue to closely monitor the facility and we welcome anyone or any group interested to join us in this effort.

—ELISEA G. GOZUN,
secretary,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources,
Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

JDV missed chance to change image

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has missed an opportunity to rise above his *trapo* image.

His cavalier, indulgent acquiescence committing the House of Representatives against any taxes on such unproductive activities as cellphone texting—and yet he's open to taxing petroleum products, never mind its adverse implications to the economy—is the ultimate demagoguery.

JDV could have redeemed himself if he had instead campaigned to reorient the self-indulgent House majority about their duties as citizens and taxpayers.

—ALFREDO V. ASUNCION,
93 Castrillo St.,
Barangay Ugong Norte,
Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

DPWH reports on fallen bridge

IN CONNECTION with the article "Bridge collapse hurts 23" by Felipe Celino (PDI, 8/05/04), may we inform the public of the actions taken by the Department of Public Works and Highways-Region 6.

According to Director Wilfredo Agustino, DPWH-Region 6, after the Dumalag Bridge at Poblacion San Roque, Dumalag, Capiz collapsed last. Aug. 1, 2004, he immediately instructed engineer Fritz Ruiz, DPWH-Region 6 Planning Division, to conduct an ocular inspection and an investigation to determine the cause of the collapse.

Subsequently, Ruiz reported thus: On July 12, 2004, while working on the bottom slab of Span No. 7 of the bridge, ARN Builders (contractor) and DPWH engineers noticed some deflection of the structure. Work was immediately stopped due to the collapse (this may have been caused by frequent flooding in the area) of the coco trunk that supported the scaffolding. To prevent further scouring on the foundations of the bridge and ensure its stability, protection works on piers 6, 7 and 8 shall be undertaken immediately. The contractor has committed to reconstruct the damaged span at its own expense.

The 23 workers suffered only slight physical injuries. Their hospital bills will be shouldered by the contractor.

—JENNIFER D. PUNZALAN,
officer in charge,
Public Information Division,
Department of Public Works
and Highways,
Office of the Secretary,
Bonifacio Drive,
Port Area, Manila

NBN-4 coverage of Olympics doesn't do justice to RP athletes

DOES the government television network really care for the Filipino athlete and the Filipino sports fan? I have been doggedly watching the telecast of the Athens Olympics since Day 1, even during the wee hours of the morning. But sadly, NBN-4 has been such a slouch in its treatment of our athletes. This is simply inexcusable, more so as the Games happens only once every four years.

The first to go for the gold were shooter Jethro Dionisio and archer Jasmin Figueroa but, alas, nary a shadow of them was even shown by NBN-4. *Dahil ba natalo ay wala na silang karapatan na mapanood ng kanilang mga kababayan* (Don't they deserve to be seen by their fellow Filipinos just because they lost)?

And yet NBN-4 spends hours and hours for sports like gymnastics and fencing where no Filipino is entered. Didn't NBN-4 promise a full and live coverage of sports events participated in by Filipino athletes? In fact, this was the "patriotic" reason it gave the President when the network asked her help in salvaging the broadcast rights to the Olympics. That shouldn't have been a difficult chore as we sent only 16 athletes to the Games. But inexplicably, not a single Filipino Olympian has even been interviewed, win or lose. And why are there no features on the Filipino community in Greece? There are tens of thousands of them out there, including a couple of friends of mine. I'm sure they're just as excited as we are in cheering on our athletes.

Another matter of growing exasperation is the hard-to-understand accents and often dull commentaries of the foreign announcers covering the Games for NBN-4. Can't NBN-4 replace them with the likes of Quinito Henson or Ed Picson so we can enjoy the action from a Pinoy point of view?

I can only hope that, before the Olympic flame is extinguished, NBN-4 shapes up and stops playing Juan Tamad, for the sake of Juan de la Cruz. Otherwise, it should be banned from covering future international sports events.

—BYRON I. CRUZ,
byronic01@yahoo.com

Vulgar, tasteless words on TV

AFTER SUSPENDING two popular personalities because of "vulgar" words uttered on TV, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board should likewise suspend several news writers, broadcasters and talk show hosts for using truly vulgar speech. I am referring to the Spanish phrases "*que se joda*" and "*la mierda.*"

The word "*joder*" is actually the vulgar term for "to copulate," so when one says "*que se joda,*" he is saying "what the f—k!"

"*Mierda*" is the Spanish of the popular French cussword "*Merde!*" which in English means "S—t!"

—ERNIE ZARATE,
Parc Chateau Condominium,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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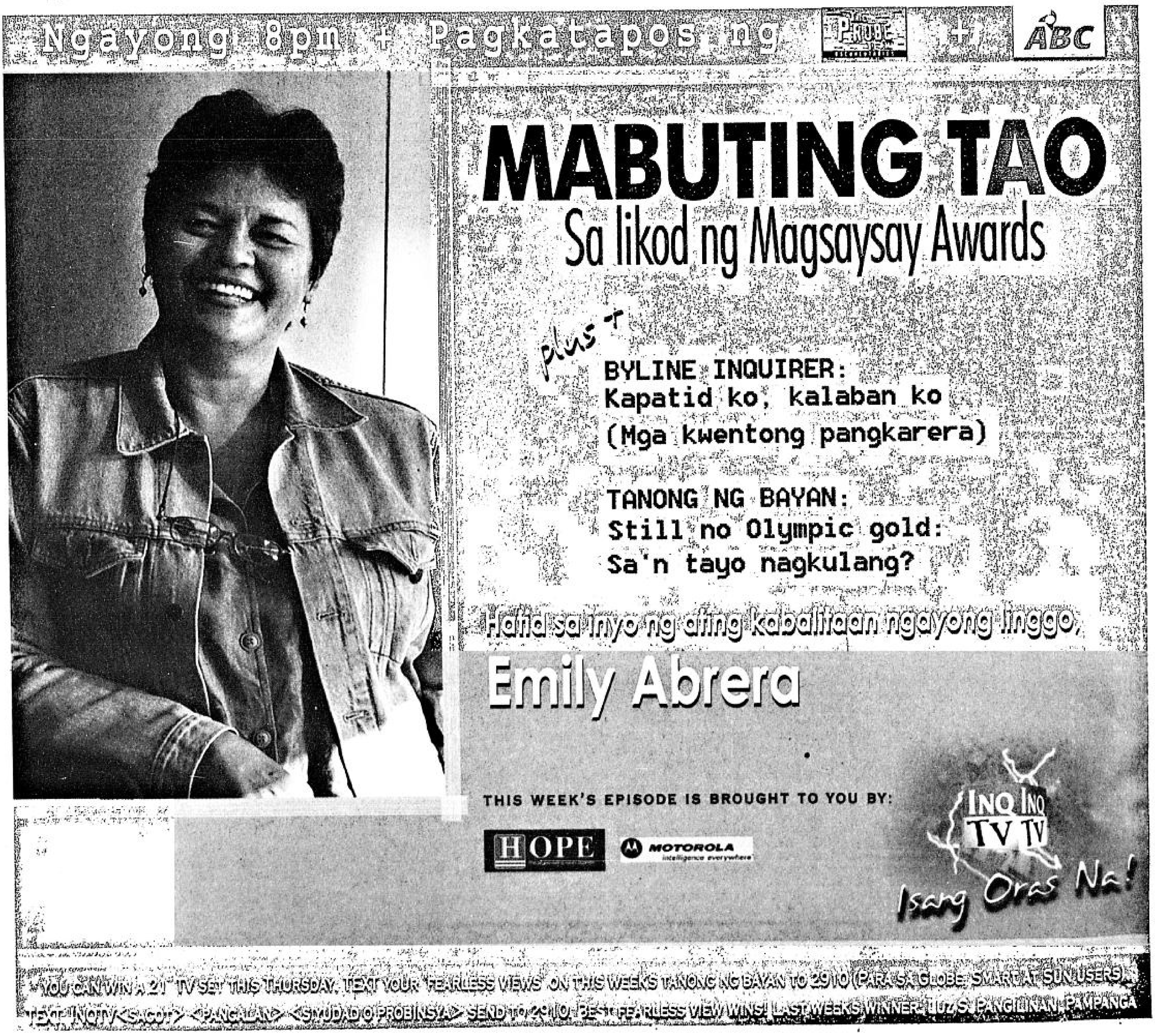

Ngayong 8pm + Pagkatapos ng PROBE + ABC

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plus +
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TANONG NG BAYAN:
Still no Olympic gold:
Sa'n tayo nagkulang?

Hatid sa inyo ng ating kabalitaan ngayong linggo,
Emily Abrera

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Quezon exec asks GMA to help collect power firm's ₱3.6B-tax

LUCENA CITY—A senior member of the Quezon provincial board urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to help the province collect at least P3.6 billion in unpaid taxes a power company owes.

Eladio Pasamba, Quezon board member, said the National Power Corp. (Napocor) has reneged on its tax debts and it was the duty of Mirant Pagbilao Corp. (Mirant) to pay the province and demand reimbursement from the Napocor.

"After all, it was their (Mirant's) property taxes," said Pasamba.

Mirant (formerly Hopewell) has been contesting the tax assessment made by the assessor of Pagbilao town, arguing it was Napocor's obligation and not the firm's because Mirant enjoys tax incentives.

"We understand that the National Power Corp. and the provincial government of Quezon are in the middle of trying to resolve this issue. We are hoping that an agreement that is acceptable to all parties concerned is reached," said Greggy Romualdez, Mirant public affairs manager, in a statement.

The taxation case has been pending at the Central Board of Assessment Appeal.

Pasamba said Napocor was not authorized to grant tax incentives to Mirant "because during that time, it was not yet the owner of the property."

He said the plant was built under a build-operate-transfer contract, which means it was still private as it will be turned over to the government 25 years from 1994, the date of its commissioning.

Pasamba also said it was Napocor that originally filed the case with the local board of assessment appeal, claiming exemption in payment of property taxes. The case was denied for lack of legal and factual basis.

Mirant Pagbilao is a subsidiary of Mirant Phils Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the US-based Mirant.

It is considered the largest private producer of electricity in the country, generating a total of more than 2,000 MW nationwide.

It operates a 735-megawatt coal-fired plant along the coast of the Isla Grande in Barangay Ibabang Polo in Pagbilao, Quezon.

Pasamba also lambasted provincial executives for alleged "indifference or lack of interest" in its pursuit of uncollected taxes from Mirant.

"Mirant as a good corporate citizen should now make the necessary payment," Pasamba said in a privilege speech on Tuesday.

Romualdez answered: "Mirant is a responsible corporate entity that settles all its rightful tax obligations in a timely manner. The company's corporate philosophy goes beyond merely settling tax obligations. We are an active partner in the development not only of Pagbilao, but also the province of Quezon, and the entire nation."

"Mirant will continue to be a contributor to the country's development by paying its rightful taxes . . .," he added. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WHO joins fight vs gastro in 2 provinces

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—The World Health Organization has joined the fight against the acute gastroenteritis epidemic in Pangasinan and La Union, which has killed 52 people and afflicted 7,693 people since May.

Jean Marc Olive, WHO Philippine representative, and Terence Thompson, WHO environmental engineer, visited Pangasinan on Tuesday to help the Department of Health (DOH) and the provincial health office (PPO) draw up plans to combat the deadly but preventable disease.

Olive said he, Thompson and DOH officials led by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit went to Bolinao town, one of the hardest hit areas in Pangasinan, to "get a little closer to the problem and to understand what could have happened."

Dayrit said 5,983 people had fallen ill with gastroenteritis in Pangasinan while the casualty count in La Union rose to 1,710. He said 48 people in Pangasinan and four people in La Union had died of gastroenteritis and cholera.

Olive, in a forum here on Tuesday, said WHO was offering "for the moment, specialists and environmental engineers, and is providing support for government (facilities) by giving reagents and media to isolate the *vibrio cholerae* organism (which causes the disease)."

He commended government health workers who presented "a very good picture about the epidemic and about the environmental situation" in the province.

"We also have seen short-term control measures undertaken, like providing water containers and chlorine, and medium-term plans, like construction of toilets that were far from the people's sources of drinking water," he said.

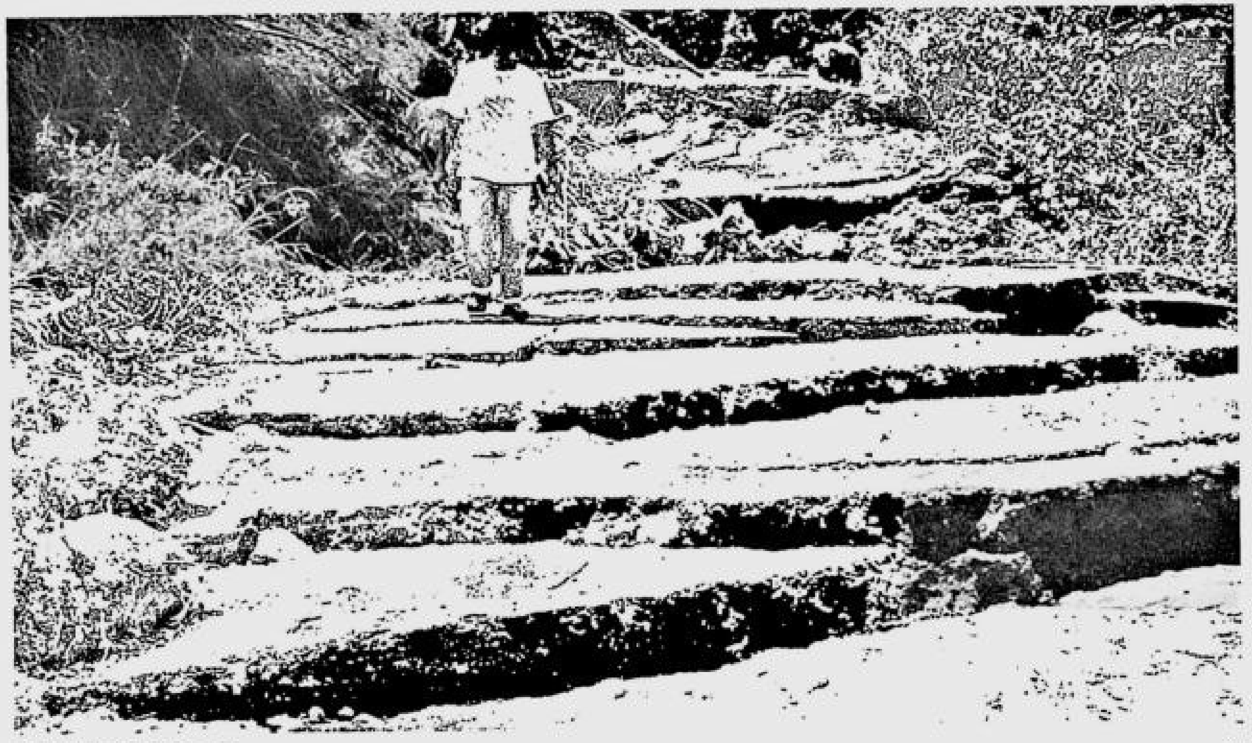
Thompson said the epidemic, while considered a calamity, could serve as a "window of opportunity" that could increase awareness among people on how to prevent the disease in the future.

He cited as example the cholera epidemic in Latin America where thousands of people died and the mortality rate in the following years dropped because people developed awareness on how to prevent the disease.

Thompson commended government health workers "who had done a lot" to put the epidemic under control.

"But more still has to be done to prevent similar outbreaks in the future," he said.

"It is important to improve the public's hygienic practices," Thompson said, pointing out that simple washing of hands could prevent the spread of the disease. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



FALLING EARTH

AP

Fissures developed on a road in the remote village of Baliton, General Santos City after the road and part of the village sank by at least 3 meters. The ground movement, described by geologists as "slumping," was blamed on heavy rains in the area. The road's original level is seen in the background.

Cops question ex-NPA on slay of rival rebel

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police have questioned a former New People's Army (NPA) member in Malinao, Aklan after a motorcycle believed to be the one used by gunmen who killed a leader of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) was found in his residence.

Supt. Odelardo Magayanes, Aklan police director, said the blue motorcycle fitted witnesses' description of the one used by three men who shot dead RPA-ABB Western Visayas commander Daniel "Mokong" Batoy, 45, and his 16-year-old daughter Diana Jane.

The former rebel was captured in an encounter with government troops in 1992 and has since been working as a foreman in the municipal government, the police official said.

Magayanes said the man denied that the motorcycle was the one used by the gunmen and that he was involved in the crime.

He was released later after several witnesses said he was in Malinao town when Batoy and his daughter were attacked on Sunday in Barangay Tina in neighboring town of Makato.

"He is not a suspect as of now because we are still establishing his link with the suspects," said Magayanes in a telephone interview.

The RPA-ABB, Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have pointed to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) as the main suspects in the killing.

The RPA-ABB broke ties with the NPA in the early 1990s over ideological and political differences. It signed a peace pact with the government in December 2000.

RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano alias Carapali Lualhati challenged the CPP-NPA to issue a statement denying or owning up the killings.

He said they were coordinating with police in the investigation.

"But we will not hesitate to use force against the killers if they resist arrest," he said.

Rights worker latest victim of vigilantes

DAVAO CITY—A human rights leader working for an end to the series of summary executions here was himself gunned down, vigilante-style.

Rashid Manahan, 26, of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights), was waiting for Dr. Nymia Simbulan, PhilRights executive director, and two other women companion, including a Spanish national, outside an apartelle in J.P. Laurel Avenue here on Tuesday afternoon when he was shot.

Simbulan and other witnesses said at least two suspects attacked Manahan.

On the day he was killed, Manahan was hosting a forum on the series of summary executions in the city.

He was supposed to drive Simbulan and the other speakers to the University of the Philippines-Mindanao campus on Anda Street, where the forum was being held.

Simbulan said Manahan fetched them from the airport around 11:10 a.m. and brought them to the Ponce Suites so they could take a rest before going to the forum.

She said around 12:15 p.m., they were preparing to leave when the gunmen attacked.

Simbulan said she was shocked when she saw Manahan fall down the pavement but still managed to shout for help.

She said the apartelle's personnel panicked.

Simbulan said bystanders helped her bring Manahan to the hospital where he died.

Witnesses told police the two suspects had been waiting since morning.

They said one of them even bought bottled water from a store near the apartelle.

"It is very ironic that Manahan has become the victim when he was the one who has initiated the forum to condemn these summary killings," Simbulan said.

She said the killing could be politically-motivated but did not elaborate. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

John Hay asked to stop depleting Baguio water supply

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio Water District has asked the firm managing Camp John Hay here to stop using the city's water reserves to prevent the depletion of the city's water supply.

The BWD said it has sued the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) before the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to stop it from tapping the water reserves of the city.

Teresita de Guzman, BWD general manager, said BWD would also seek a court injunction against CJHDevco and some 100 deep well owners in Baguio who deliver water to households for a fee.

BWD has started reviewing its management policies for Baguio's remaining water resources after a bulk water supply project failed to qualify any bidder.

The project intended to get a private contractor, which could supply Baguio with 50,000 cubic meters of water each day to satisfy the daily demand here for 52,000 cu.m.

BWD can only ration 35,000 cu.m. daily to 26,000 Baguio households.

De Guzman said the suit asserts BWD's franchise control over most of the city to curb further depletion of Baguio's aquifer.

Early this year, BWD lost on a technicality a similar NWRB suit it filed against the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the John Hay Water Systems Inc. (JHWSI) for their use of a creek to supply water to 11 villages in the John Hay reservation.

BWD had objected to JHWSI's petition seeking rights to these water sources.

BWD's new NWRB suit responds to a complaint filed by Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon, who asserted a 1997 city resolution that prevents CJHDevco from using Baguio's water sources, the INQUIRER learned.

This is one of the 19 conditions that the city set in exchange for endorsing the John Hay lease in 1994, said a BWD official.

But lawyer Gina Alvarez, CJHDevco senior vice president for legal affairs, said the BWD was misinformed.

She said the third condition of Resolution 362-1994 requires CJHDevco and BCDA to find outside Baguio "additional water supply for use in the (John Hay Special Economic) zone's overall operations, including concessionaires and their clientele."

"BCDA shall make certain that in no way shall water use within the zone deplete or minimize the water supply of the city," the resolution added.

"We have not needed more than the (1,500 cubic meters of daily water that is supplied by two creeks). In fact, we have excess supply, which we deliver to the barangays. CJHDevco is not obliged to share its water but we supply households (of Barangay Scout Barrio) with water that the BWD cannot deliver to them," Alvarez said.

CJHDevco presented these Tuesday to Councilor Leandro Yangot, head of an investigating team formed by Yaranon, said Adam Borja, CJHDevco spokesperson. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

2 students drown

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two college students drowned in Laguna Lake as the boat they were riding on their way back to the shore capsized after being walloped by big waves along a coastal village in Pililia, Rizal Thursday night, police said. Senior Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Rizal police director, identified the fatalities as Erwin Biansuy, 21, and Jeffrey Mendez, both of Antipolo City. He said the victims and nine other classmates from the Central Colleges of the Philippines went to the area to attend a birthday party of a certain Carlo Nabor held in a "floating house" within a fish cage off the shore of Barangay Halayhayin. As the group of nine female and seven male students headed back to the shore on board three separate boats at about 7:30 p.m., it was met by a sudden gust of strong wind that caused big waves, toppling the small boats. Police found the bodies of the victims after almost an hour. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 die in road mishap

CAMALIG, Albay—Two persons died while four others were seriously injured when an Army truck of the 9th Infantry Division collided with a tricycle in Sitio Basud, Barangay Ilawod in this town at about 8 p.m., Sunday. Insp. Abelardo Añonuevo of the Camalig police identified the dead as Ramil Nocete, 24, and Gilbert Monson, 23, both residents of this town. Injured were Agosto Lagasca, 24, Jimer Nocete, 24, Jerry Morta and Leandro Nasayo, 18, according to Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos, 901st Infantry Brigade commander based in Barangay Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay. Santos said the Army would extend financial help to the victims. Those injured were being treated at the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in Legazpi City. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Technology investment

CITY OF CALAPAN—Department of Science and Technology regional director Hipolito Aycardo has encouraged local government units and small and medium enterprises to invest in the processing of agricultural products in Oriental Mindoro. In a recent forum at the provincial capitol square here, the DoST tackled processing of calamansi/sugar concentrate, virgin coconut oil, banana flour, bottled *rambutan* in light syrup and vinegar. The forum was organized by the provincial government through the Technology and Livelihood Research Center in coordination with the DoST and the Department of Trade and Industry. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Soldier in shooting at large

COTABATO CITY—The Army soldier involved in a gunfight that killed a militiaman is still at-large. The suspect, Sgt. Mario Alejaga (not Alejado as reported), was tagged as the one who shot militiaman Mario Morales during an altercation weeks ago. Morales and Alejaga were assigned as security escorts of Silvino Cinches, National Bureau of Investigation director for Central Mindanao. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Musician sues bank

BAGUIO CITY—Musician Ramon "RJ" Jacinto is suing Equitable-PCIBank and his family's holding firm to rescue his parents' Baguio property, which he claimed were "fraudulently" sold and auctioned off by bank officials and his own family members. Jacinto testified before Judge Antonio Esteves Jr. on Aug. 6 that a 9,721.88-square meter property and an adjoining 2,500-square meter lot on South Drive here were illegally mortgaged to the bank by Forward Properties Inc. for P70 million. The bank told the court that the mortgage and foreclosure proceedings were done in good faith. The mortgaged properties were recently foreclosed and are now up for sale for P122 million. Jacinto said among the interested bidders on record were bank officials and Forward Properties, which is run by some of his brothers and of which he is also a stockholder. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 thieves nabbed

CAMP AQUINO, Tarlac CITY—A joint military and police team has arrested two men who allegedly took P8.5 million from the municipal treasurer of Calanasan, Apayao, on Friday. Reports reaching the Northern Luzon Command here said the team arrested suspect Benito Lara and later raided the house of his companion Jaime Balabay. Lara identified his other companions as Manuel Daguio and Stanley Balog, all from Kalinga. The suspects shot and wounded Calanasan treasurer Rosalita Batil, her police escort and a driver in Luna, Apayao, and fled with the P8.5-million payroll of the Calanasan employees. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

A dangerous region for journalists

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Ronnie Lorejo, Romulo Ponte and Joanna Los Baños

ONE OF five Filipino journalists murdered since 1986 was from Southern Luzon, the second most dangerous area for journalists to be in after Mindanao, which has 36 cases.

As of last count, 18 of the 79 slain journalists listed by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and the INQUIRER's Research Department were from Southern Tagalog and Bicol. Except for one case, most of the Southern Luzon cases in the INQUIRER list have remained unsolved.

The policeman, who shot and killed radioman Enrique Lingan of Lucena City, has been in jail, according to the victim's mother.

In the case of another slain Lucena broadcaster Polly Pobeda, his colleagues had organized indignation marches and rallies, but his family members couldn't help but feel being left alone in their quest for justice.

On trial

"After the burial of my brother, with all the media in attendance, either in sympathy or plain coverage of the event, there's no one left. There is no more media around us," the victim's eldest brother Pio said in an interview last week in Barangay Kinagonan Ibaba, Agdangan, Quezon.

Pio also expressed disappointment in losing the services of their lawyers, who belonged to a private legal defense center based in Manila, and a Lucena politician-lawyer who later handled the case. They could not afford the prosecution's services, he said.

A week after the murder, police arrested two suspects—brothers Eulogio and Eric Patulay, both bodyguards of Councilor Romano Talaga, a son of Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. The Talagas have strongly denied involvement in the killing.

The suspects have since been detained at the provincial jail.

During every hearing at the regional trial court, Pio said he could not help but envy the Patulay brothers and their lawyers, who were always prepared for trial.

"Their lawyers just [kept] on beating our witness to pieces because of his [Pobeda's witnesses] educational handicap," he added.

With the recent rash of killings of journalists, Pio urged media groups to focus their efforts on how to protect his late brother's former associates.

Suspects identified

In the case of Arnel Manalo, police announced last week that his murder had been "practically solved" with the identification of the suspected lone gunman.

Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan, head of Task Force Newsmen, said Manalo's younger brother Apollo positively tagged the suspect as Michael Garcia, believed to be a hired killer.

Lawmen have been hunting down Garcia, who also has a warrant of arrest for another murder, Radovan said.

Police working on the case of John Villanueva, 53, a veteran broadcaster from Legazpi City who was killed in 2002, said witnesses saw the motorcycle-riding gunman, who wore a bonnet, and his companion, who had on a crash helmet. But up to now, probers had yet to establish if the assassination was politically motivated or insurgency-related.

Police said the killing of Villanueva, a former vice mayor of Camalig town in Albay, was well-planned and patterned after similar attacks on barangay officials in the province. They mentioned the deaths of the barangay chiefs of Homapon in 1999 and of Taysan in February, and of a councilor in Ligao City, and the foiled killing of a barangay chair in Daraga town.

Barely two months after Villanueva was mowed down, an Army officer based in Daraga identified two NPA recruits as the suspected killers.

Brig. Gen. Pedrito Magsino, who was then commander of 901st Army Brigade based in Barangay Villahermosa, Daraga, named the suspects as Segundo Bongcay, alias "Ka Santi," and Jerry Abache, alias "Ka Josam."

Since democracy was restored in 1986, press freedom has been a major casualty in Southern Tagalog, Bicol

Both were linked to a series of killings and ambuscades of policemen in Camalig and its neighboring towns.

Magsino said the hit men were identified by his neighbor, who was harassed right after the killing. Because of the threats, he had recommended that the witness be placed under the government's Witness Protection Program.

The Army was leaving the investigation to the Philippine National Police, he said, as Villanueva's killing was civilian in nature. But the alleged witness later refused to testify and no longer wanted to be involved, according to the police.

Still looking

In the case of Nelson Nadura of dyME radio in Masbate, who was ambushed and killed on Dec. 2, 2003, police quoted witnesses as saying that the gunmen were young and spoke Tagalog.

Nadura, 42, was the president of the Union of Print and Broadcast Journalists of Masbate and had been an NPA leader in Masbate for three years.

Senior Supt. Romeo Mapalo, a former provincial police director, said Nadura's former comrades in the communist movement could be behind the killing. But he said he was more inclined to believe that Nadura's job as a commentator had something to do with it.

No suspects have been arrested.

"If he didn't have a radio program, it is likely that he would still be alive today," Nadura's widow Vilma said.

Eyewitness in custody

Task Force Guwapo was created by regional police authorities to focus on solving the murder of Legazpi broadcaster Ruel Endrinal on Feb. 11. The unit claimed to have witnesses in custody.

The only clues probers have gathered so far were the text messages of death threats which Endrinal's widow Mina said her husband had been receiving a few days earlier. He ignored the warnings, saying these were part of his job, according to Mina.

The task force has yet to issue an update of the case.

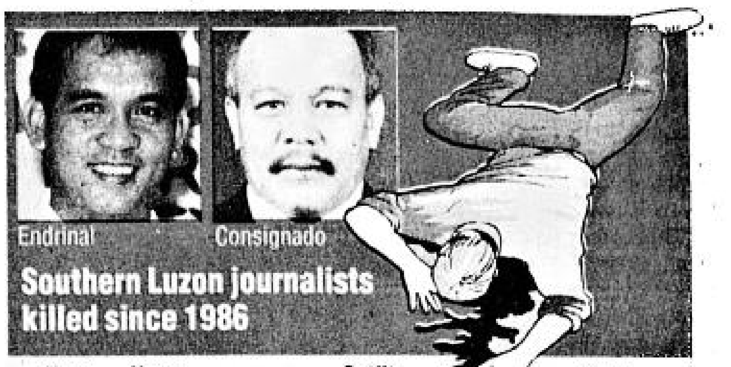
Killers at large

The killers of Laguna journalists, Sonny Alcantara and Noel Villarante, are still at large.

Fernando Consignado, 50, a Radio Veritas correspondent who was shot and killed on Aug. 12 in Nagcarlan, Laguina, was buried five days later. His grieving relatives wondered whether they and the families of other slain colleagues could find justice.

Media and press freedom organizations, both local and national, condemned the journalists' gruesome deaths and urged authorities to act immediately on the cases.

The International Federation of Journalists, as well as other media groups, have expressed concern and even sent a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, appealing for speedy investigation.

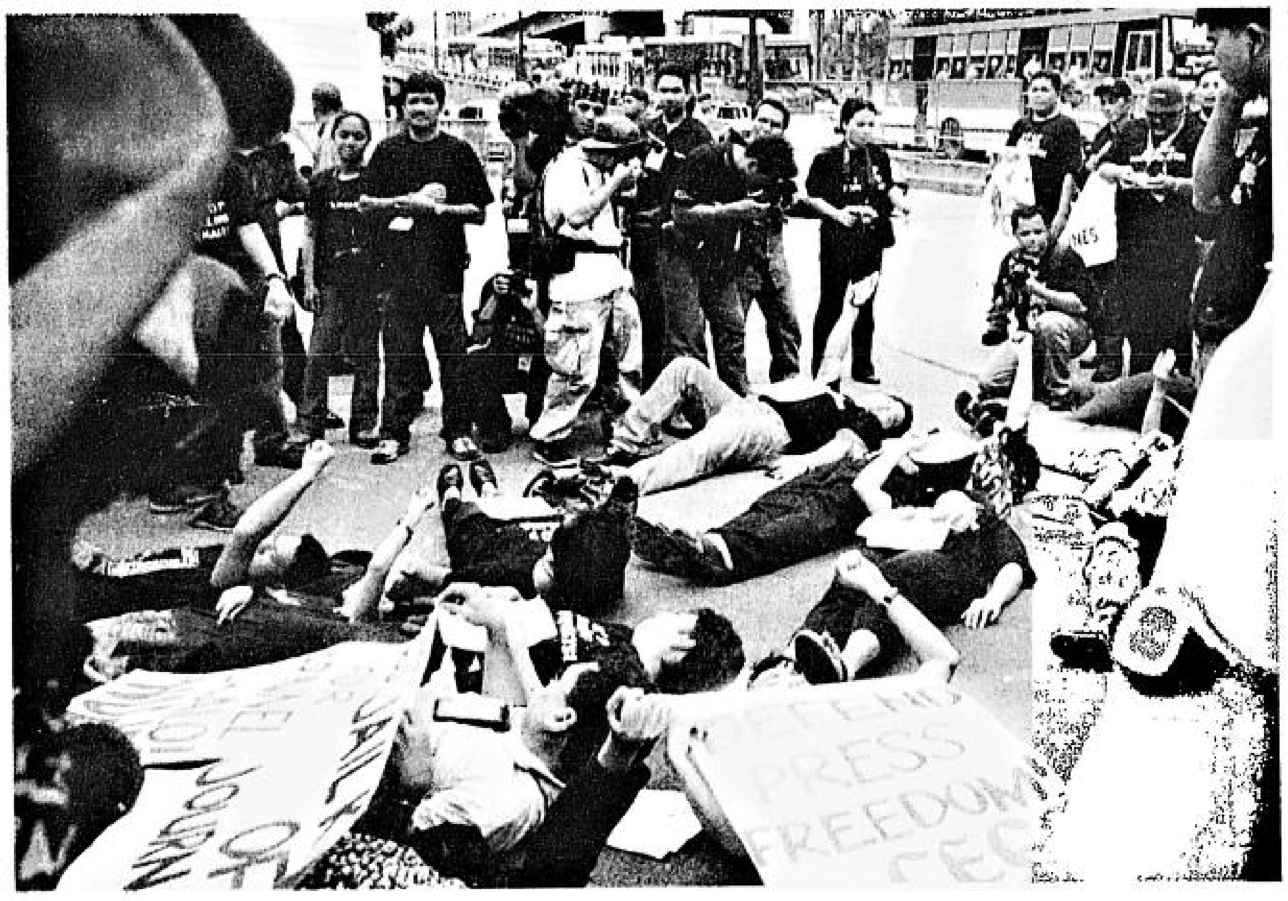


Southern Luzon journalists killed since 1986

Year	Name	Outfit	Place
3/24/87	Virgilio Pacala	Manila Hotline	Laguna
6/22/88	Ricardo Ribano	People's Journal	Quezon
11/17/88	Noli Resurreccion	dzMM	Laguna
11/23/89	Cesario de Vera	dzEC	Biñan, Laguna
2/4/90	Enrique Lingan	Quezon Times	Lucena, Quezon
2/6/90	Joseph Kruegger	Mindoro Weekly Reporter	Oriental Mindoro
2/7/90	Enrique Ger		Oriental Mindoro
5/26/91	Nicasio Enciso	Manila Bulletin	Tagaytay
12/15/96	Roberto Berbon	dzMM	Cavite
5/31/01	Joy Mortel	Mindoro Guardian	Occidental Mindoro
8/22/02	Sonny Alcantara	Celestron Cable TV Kokus Newsweekly	San Pablo, Laguna
4/28/03	John Villanueva, Jr.	dzGB-AM	Legazpi
5/17/03	"Polly" Pobeda	dwTI-AM	Lucena, Quezon
8/19/03	Noel Villarante	dzJV/ The Laguna Score	Sta. Cruz, Laguna
12/2/03	Nelson Nadura	dyME	Masbate
2/11/04	Ruel Endrinal	dzRc	Legazpi
8/5/04	Arnel Manalo	dzRH/ Bulgar/ Southern Tagalog Public Forum	Bauan, Batangas
8/12/04	Fernando Consignado	Radio Veritas	Nagcarlan, Laguna

SOURCES: PDI RESEARCH / NUJP

INQGRAPHIC: ESAMBO



MEDIA persons stage a die-in protest rally outside Camp Crame to demand a swift solution to over 50 murders of colleagues since 1986.

PDI PHOTO/ BOY CABRIDO

Former NPA captive wanted quiet release

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Presentacion, Camarines Sur

HAD HE had his way, it would have been a quiet and low-profile release for Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino. No glare of klieg lights and no repeat of responses to questions that boiled down to the lowest point of his career as an Army officer.

"Interview *na naman* (again)?" murmured Pfc. Ronel Nemeño as he and Fidelino walked from the car to a rowdy crowd in the small plaza of Presentacion town in Camarines Sur.

Fidelino and Nemeño had been held in a jail with no walls and bars. Anxiety showed in their eyes when they were freed by the communist New People's Army (NPA) after 171 days of captivity. It was the same look they had two weeks when they were allowed contact with selected journalists inside the NPA camp.

Nemeño, who pursued a medical technology course before joining the military, received less media attention compared to Fidelino during their release. His twin brother Mariano was there to receive him.

The soldier was worried that his fiancée, Irene Abiog, would adversely react to the story about his former sweetheart in his hometown in Surigao del Sur. He confessed that he never told Irene about his past relationship, but he was determined to marry his fiancée.

Fidelino, who is in his 30s, has been in the service for four years. He was promoted to a rank lower than a captain although he was only a reserved officer in the Reserved Officers' Training Course (ROTC) at the Marinduque State College.

His bearing as an officer had not escaped the notice of NPA cadres. Both the rebels and the Army soldiers agreed and respected each other's stand to remain in their jobs, and that they could meet again in a violent encounter.

Emotions

Inside the NPA camp, the military men's movements were somewhat tolerated but remained restricted. In an interview with this writer, Fidelino and Nemeño would fix their gaze elsewhere while sharing information about their captivity and private lives.

"I don't cry. I have nothing to cry for," Fidelino said. "The last time I cried was when my father died."

But his eyes were downcast when he answered queries about his family.

On the eve of their release, Fidelino was suddenly enthusiastic when the third anniversary of his wedding with his wife Leah on Aug. 25, and the birthday of their two-year-old daughter Alliyah Nicole on Aug. 16 were mentioned.

Fidelino was happy about the big events in his life, but his thoughts were mixed. He said he still had to convince Leah, who belongs to the Jehovah's Witnesses, to have their child baptized as a Catholic.

"Anyway, when my children become adults, they can choose freely between remaining Catholics or becoming followers of the Jehovah's Witnesses," he said.

Fidelino described his wife as a very simple, ordinary woman with simple dreams. He pledged loyalty to her, being a one-woman Army man.

ARMY Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino (right) and Private First Class Ronel Nemeño, were freed in the remote coastal town of Presentacion in Camarines Sur last week.

PDI PHOTO JESS YUSON

Although he had accepted the reality of being a captive of the enemy, Fidelino could not hide his frustration. With bowed head, he recalled the moment the NPA rebels surrounded his unit's helpless position after the encounter in Bataan, Tinambac, Camarines Sur, on March 1.

When an NPA leader, who identified himself as Ka Russell, read the soldiers' release papers before a crowd of villagers and selected journalists, Fidelino reacted at the mention of prisoners of war (POWs).

He placed his hands across his chest to hide the bold black letters on his white shirt that read "POW" and "1Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino."

For a little more than a minute, Ka Russell's voice boomed as he declared the conditions of the Army officer's release, including a possible arrest if new evidence of complaints filed against him would surface.

With discomfort, Fidelino sat quietly in front of the crowd witnessing the signing of the papers. He avoided eye contact with the people; his gaze wandered around.

Fidelino was the leader of a 24-man team from Charlie Company of the 402nd Infantry Battalion when they were ambushed in the wee hours of the morning by the rebels. One of his men was killed and six others were wounded.

"They (rebels) said I lost one man and my other six men were injured. I don't know," he quipped.

Newspaper dealers see revitalized street sales

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A RAY of hope.

This was how newspaper publishers and dealers saw the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's decision to allow them to sell on sidewalks.

"This is a very good development, *parang nabunutan kami ng tinik* (It's a great relief)," said Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Philippine Daily Inquirer president, during the induction of officers of the Newspaper Magazine and Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines (NMCDAP) Tuesday.

Win-win solution

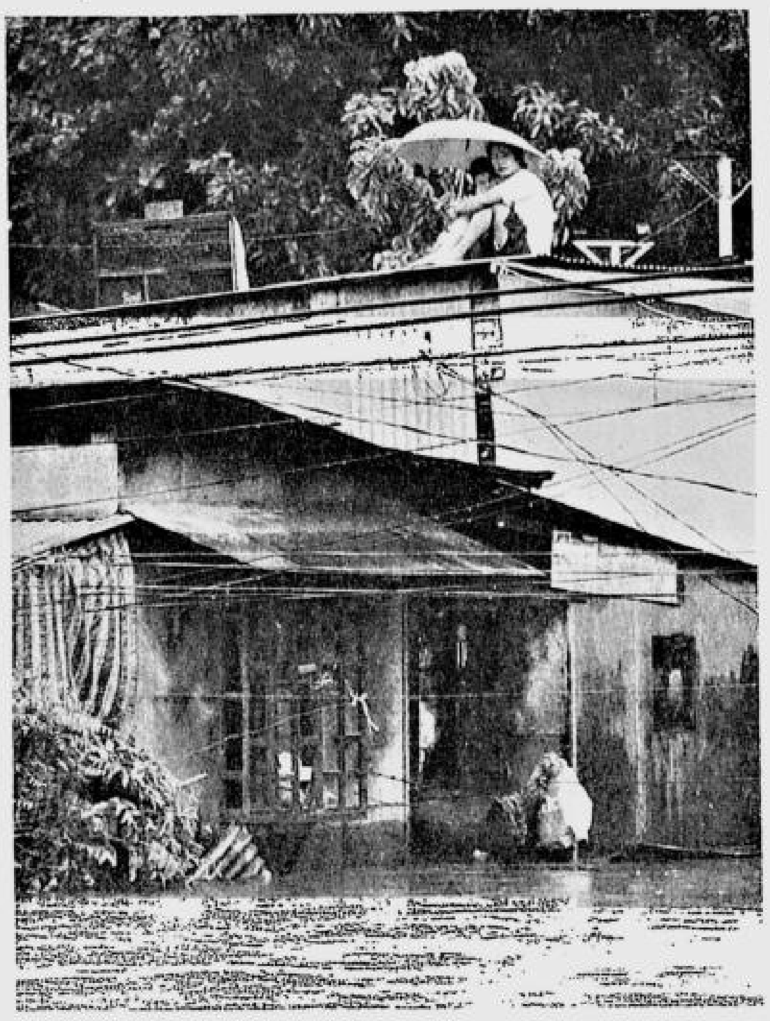
"Lots of dealers were really affected by the MMDA's strict campaigns against sidewalk vending. It's good that they were able to find a win-win solution to the problem," Romualdez said.

Carlito Corro, NMCDAP chair for newspaper affairs, said street sales had been affected

"The MMDA's sidewalk clearing campaign took its toll on us," Corro said, adding that the abolition of the intersections through the U-turn slot scheme also affected their newsboys.

"Our newsboys could not offer newspapers to motorists during the stops anymore," Corro said.

Jeep groups seek new ₱1 fare hike



HIGH, BUT DRY! JOAN BONDOC
Residents of Roxas District in Quezon City find their rooftops a refuge from rising flood water as typhoon Marce dumps rain on Metro Manila.

By Clarissa S. Batino

FIVE major jeepney groups are set to file on Monday a petition for another P1 increase in the minimum fare of P5.50 after the price of diesel reached P21 a liter early this week.

A joint petition would be filed by the Federation of Drivers and Jeepneys Operators of the Philippines (Fejodap), the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytors Nationwide (Piston), the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transportation Operators (PCDO-Acto), the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association (MJODAP), and the Alliance of Transport Drivers Association (Altodap).

Efren de Luna, president of PCDO-Acto said the five groups agreed last week to file a joint petition seeking a new round of fare hike once the cost of diesel breaches P21.

Pump prices, including that of diesel, went up anew on Monday.

Starting June 12, jeepneys charged P5.50 for the first 4 kilometers and P1 for each succeeding kilometer. Ordinary buses increased their fare to P6 for the first 5 kilometers.

"Diesel is now more than P21 per liter. We are preparing a petition for a P1 hike on the minimum fare of P5.50 covering the first 4 kilometers," said De Luna.

He noted, however, that the transport groups agreed not to ask anymore for an increase on the fare for each extra kilometer after the minimum distance.

Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chair Maria Elena Bautista said nothing could stop the jeepney groups from filing a new fare hike petition.

"They are free to file a new fare hike but they have to justify it very well," she said.

SUERTRES
5 6 7
(In exact order)

FOUR DIGIT
6 7 2 6

EZ2
22 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45
12 15 19 38 40 41

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Cops kill suspected arsonist

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A SUSPECTED drug addict who had ran amuck, set fire to their house in Caloocan City, and attacked barangay watchmen with a bolo was killed by policemen yesterday.

Bernardo Pelo, 21, died of gunshot wounds in his right shoulder and belly after he allegedly attempted to hack policemen who tried to pacify him.

Police said Pelo reportedly set fire to their house in Barangay Bagong Silang about 9 a.m. by lighting a gas stove.

Fire stopped

Neighbors managed to put out the fire even before it could spread to nearby houses.

Barangay watchmen were also tapped to help pacify Pelo, but he turned on them with a bolo.

The watchmen then sought help from the police. This further agitated Pelo, who then directed his attack on the responding policemen.

Pelo was hit twice when the police drew their guns to ward off the attack. The suspect died while undergoing treatment at the Tala Hospital.

If GMA can go to work with red eyes, so can you

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT IS something that simple handwashing can take care of.

The Department of Health has said that people with sore eyes can go to work without the danger of causing an epidemic.

Contrary to myth, sore eyes or conjunctivitis, could not be transmitted by looking at an infected person. It is spread by touching surfaces where virus thrives and then rubbing one's eyes.

"It is not necessary to be absent from work if you have sore eyes," Dr. Luningning Villa, medical specialist with the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, said in an interview.

Reasons to stay home

However, fever, intense headache and pain in the eyes can be reasons to stay home, she added.

The two most common types of sore eyes are pharyngoconjunctival fever (PCF) and epidemic keratoconjunctivitis (EKC).

Both are characterized by sore throat, swelling and a grainy feeling in the eyes. However, PCF is accompanied by fever, while EKC, which is more severe, makes the eyes sensitive to light.

Such viral infections disappear between seven to 14 days. Other conjunctivitis-causing viruses have shorter incubation periods that may last up to two days.

Cases of sore eyes, also called pink eyes, usually peak during the summer in the Philippines, but there has been an epidemic of the eye infection with the onset of the rainy season. One of the victims has been President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Villa said this was not extraordinary as the viruses that cause sore eyes could be present any time of the year.

It is okay for infected people to self-medicate, usually using anti-red eye drops, she said.

But when the swelling and redness of the eyes and the discharge of pus last for more than a week, and is complicated by an increased blurring of vision, people should see their doctors, Villa suggested.

Villa advised those who go to work with sore eyes to wear dark glasses or an eye patch.

Children who have sore eyes, however, should be kept at home because they tend to touch their eyes and surfaces, which could spread the virus.

She said washing hands was still the best safeguard against developing an infection.

TIPS TO AVOID SORE EYES:

- WASH hands.
- Do not rub eyes even when they are itchy or when a foreign element has entered them.
- Wear sunglasses or eyeglasses, especially on a windy day.
- Avoid sharing towels, makeup, particularly eye applicators, and sunglasses.
- Washing the face after a day out would not hurt.

Public Apology

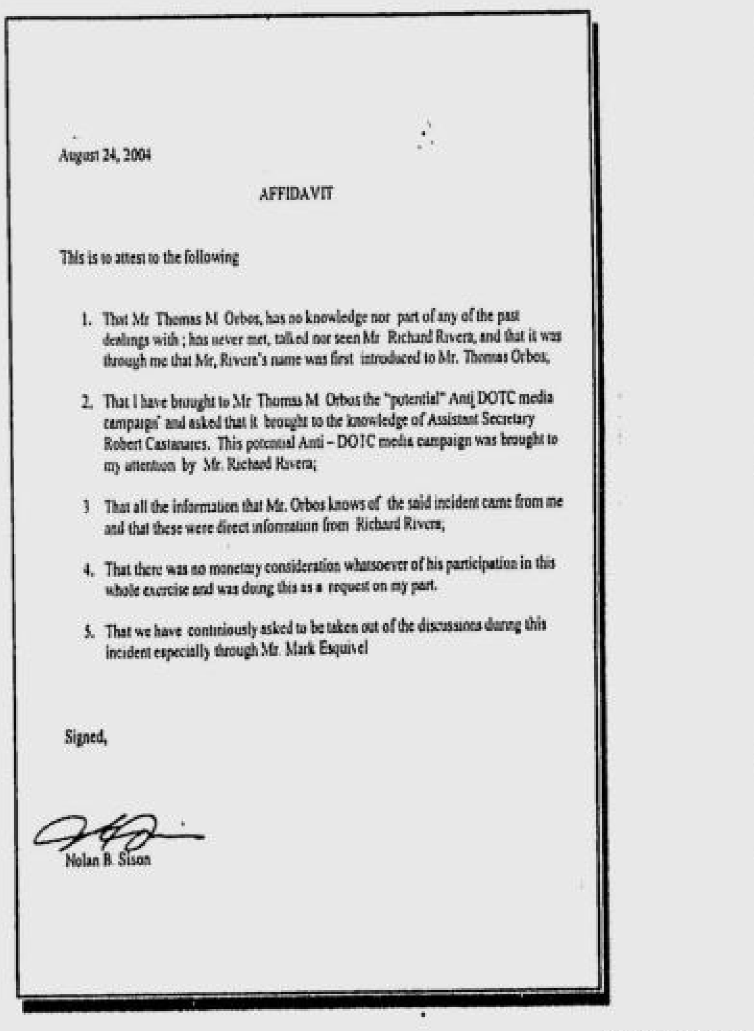
For whatever damage, hurt or pain to the loved ones and primarily to the honor and integrity of the Department of Transportation and Communications, The Honorable Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza and Assistant Secretary Robert Castañares, I extend my heartfelt apology.

The recent negative media releases that cast aspersion on the DOTC and the above-mentioned public officials were part of an orchestrated campaign where my person was unwittingly used and dragged.

A copy of the affidavit executed by Mr. Nolan Sison dated August 24, 2004 attesting to and exonerating me from such operation is hereby published.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS ORBOS



August 24, 2004

AFFIDAVIT

This is to attest to the following

1. That Mr Thomas M Orbos, has no knowledge nor part of any of the past dealings with ; has never met, talked nor seen Mr Richard Rivera, and that it was through me that Mr, Rivera's name was first introduced to Mr. Thomas Orbos;
2. That I have brought to Mr Thomas M Orbos the "potential" Anti DOTC media campaign" and asked that it brought to the knowledge of Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares. This potential Anti – DOTC media campaign was brought to my attention by Mr. Richard Rivera;
3. That all the information that Mr. Orbos knows of the said incident came from me and that these were direct information from Richard Rivera;
4. That there was no monetary consideration whatsoever of his participation in this whole exercise and was doing this as a request on my part.
5. That we have continiously asked to be taken out of the discussions during this incident especially through Mr. Mark Esquivel

Signed,

Nolan B. Sison

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Aglipay's first order of business

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

DEPUTY Director General Edgardo Aglipay, newly appointed chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said his first order of business is to get rid of extortionist-cops and those who oppress civilians.

There's no doubt Aglipay will be true to his word. I've followed his career for years. He leads by example. One example he sets is refusing money from gambling lords.

Congratulations, Egay!

So, without much ado, I'd like to bring to Aglipay's attention the complaint of a manicurist, Leaper Bendrijo, who was manhandled by two cops from Manila police's Station 3 in front of her 7-year-old son.

Bendrijo identified her attackers as PO3 Enrique Lalu and Alex Cabaldo of the Station's special reaction group.

She said she was cleaning the nails of a customer on the sidewalk of Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz when the two cops chanced upon her. Without warning, the two cops grabbed her by the belt and threw her into their jeep. When she asked what her offense was, the two slapped and punched her several times.

Okay, granting Bendrijo didn't have any license to ply her trade on the sidewalk, did the cops have to treat her like a dangerous criminal? They should have deferred to her sex and the fact that she had in tow her 7-year-old son Kerrvin.

When I asked the boy about his reaction to the incident, he said he would avenge his mother by becoming a cop when he grows up.

Bendrijo said she does manicure jobs on the sidewalk to help her husband, a security guard, who's underpaid.

She said the policemen let her go because she agreed to have sex with Officer Lalu after she took her son home. She went straight to my office instead.

* * *

Aglipay should also punish do-nothing policemen or those who don't immediately act on complaints from civilians when they have the means to do so.

For example, Mary Ann Gueta, 22, was robbed by a taxi driver of P64,000 on Aug. 14 on Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City. She was supposed to have bought appliances for her parents with the money. She was lucky a friend who saw her off took down the cab's plate number.

She immediately reported the robbery to the Central Police District's Station No. 10. The police didn't act on her complaint even when she gave them the cab's plate number.

The cabbie-robber was arrested, no thanks to Station No. 10 of Quezon City.

Where did she go? Well, to the "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" office, whose staff immediately identified the taxicab and its operator. How? Simple, through the cab's plate number.

Alin Ferrer, one of the "Isumbong" reporters, coordinated with policemen from the police community precinct in Sampaloc, Manila, for the arrest of the cab driver-holdup man.

The police sometimes complain that crime victims go to the media instead of reporting to them.

In short, citizens trust the media in solving crimes more than they trust the police.

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AGLIPAY

AGLIPAY ORDER

Jawo-Yap probers now face probe

By Christian V. Esguerra and Luige del Puerto

MANDALUYONG policemen are now themselves under fire for allegedly bungling the investigation into the Jaworski-Yap shootout in the city last June 21.

If found guilty, city police chief Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez and his men could be relieved from their jobs or face outright dismissal from the Philippine National Police, according to Director Avelino Razon, National Capital Region Police Office chief.

"That's the order we got and we will implement it," Razon said yesterday, referring to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes' directive to the PNP to revive an investigation into the shootout allegedly triggered by uncollected bets. Involved in the incident were brothers Ryan and Ron Michael Jaworski, and Anjelo Elton Yap and his sibling Mark.

The Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office said it had dismissed the criminal charges filed against the Jaworskis, sons of former Sen. Robert Jaworksi, and the Yaps, scions of a wealthy family in Mandaluyong, because of the failure of police to establish "probable cause."

PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay said he had ordered Razon's office to check if Velasquez and his investigators committed "administrative infractions" that would require "appropriate action."

The NCRPO's Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID) based in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, had been specifically tasked to undertake the new investigation.

Razon said he did not give the RIID a deadline to come up with its findings, but added that sanctions would be imposed as soon as the results are available.

Velasquez yesterday said he was open to an investigation. "It's possible that we might have indeed committed some lapses," he admitted: "We welcome the inquiry and hope the investigators would point these lapses out so we could do something about them."

But Velasquez said it was unfair for anyone to judge his men's investigation without specifically identifying the lapses they might have indeed committed.

"We believe in transparency, it would be better to look at our records and identify our specific shortcomings," he explained.

Public outcry prompted Reyes to order a reinvestigation of the high-profile case that saw the groups of Jaworski and Yap exchanging gunfire behind the Saisaki restaurant on Florida Street, Greenhills, using pistols and M-16 rifles.

Velasquez said he has nothing to fear since he knows his investigators did their job.

"This is not a problem. Many things had been said against us, but all I know is that we did our job," he said.

In earlier interviews, Velasquez blamed the two families' lack of cooperation with the police. Both camps chose not to file charges against each other, despite the damage done to their vehicles, he said. Ryan himself was caught in the crossfire and sent to the hospital for treatment.

"The Jaworskis were the offended party, but they didn't want to press charges," Velasquez said. "How do you dispense justice to one who does not want it?"

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THURSDAY,
AUGUST 26, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A17

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV

BILLIARDS: RP-Taiwan 9 Ball Challenge, Day 3; 2 p.m.; Solar Sports—It's the final day in the battle between the country's best cue artists and Taiwan's finest.

BASKETBALL: NBA Hardwood Classics—Lakers vs Kings, March 24, 2002; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Relive this classic encounter between bitter Pacific Division rivals LA and Sacramento.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Compiled by L. Mangulat

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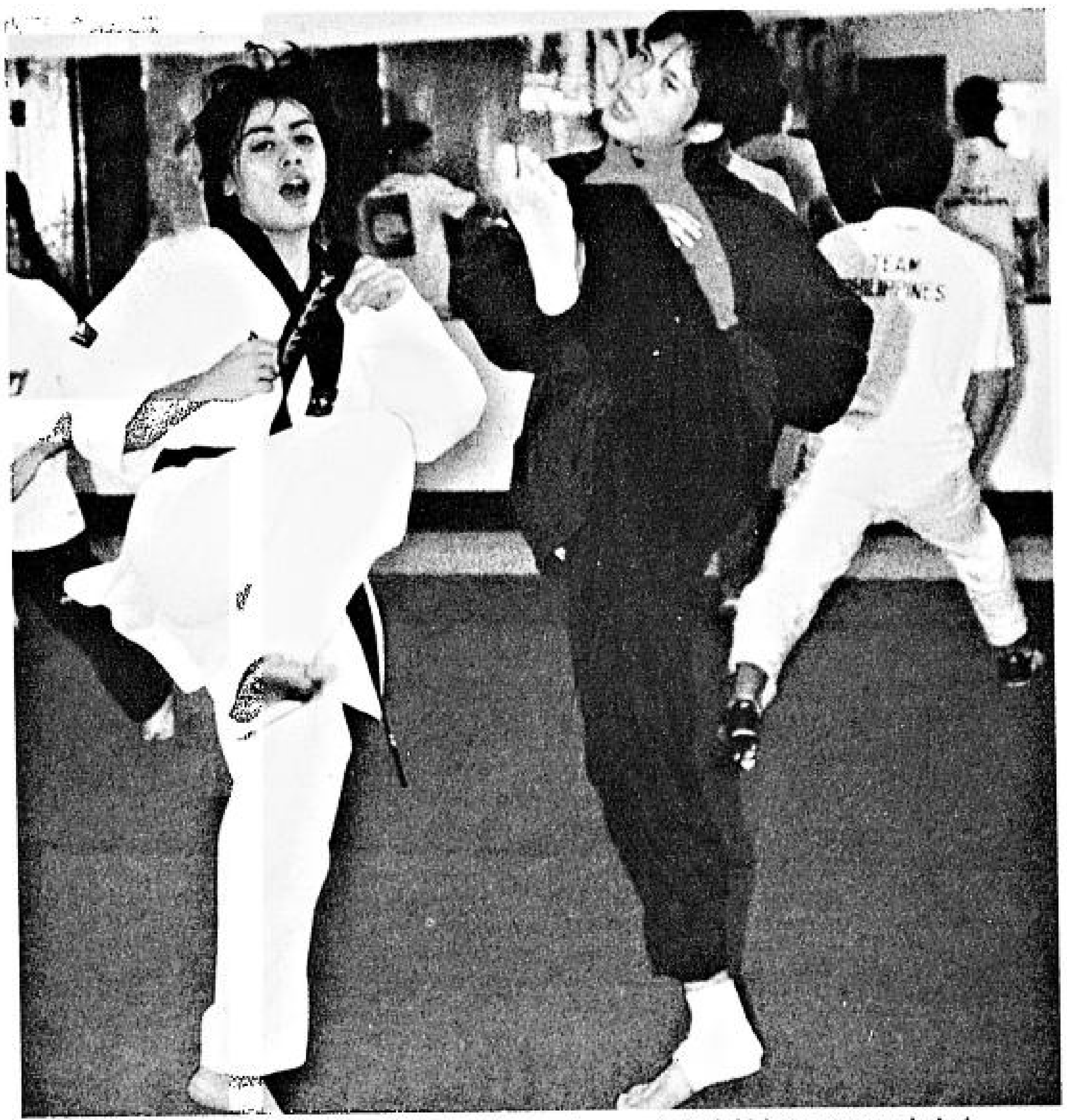
GO FIRST TO DO BATTLE

Prospects bright for 3 RP jins

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor



TSHOMLEE Go and Mary Antoinette Rivero pack enough power in their kicks to stun tough rivals in the Olympics taekwondo competitions.
RUDY ESPERAS

ATHENS—There's some fight left for the Philippines and three Filipinos will carry that when taekwondo competitions take center stage in the 28th Olympic Games here on Thursday.

And hopes are high—especially among the country's top sports leaders, including President Macapagal-Arroyo herself—that the three taekwondo jins will win a medal, possibly the country's first ever gold in the Olympic Games.

"Our chances are good," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit. "Maybe even better than boxing."

Tshomlee Go will go to battle first at the Faliro Sports Pavilion when he sees action in the men's under 58-kilogram Thursday. Donald Geisler III (men's under 80) and Mary Antoinette Rivero (women's under 67) will fight on Saturday.

Also late Wednesday at the Olympic Stadium, Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito was to compete in the long jump. On Aug. 29, the last of the Filipino athletes, Eduardo Buenavista will run in the climax of the Games, the marathon.

The draw and weigh-in were to be held later Wednesday to determine the Filipinos' first round opponents. Officials are hoping the luck of the draw would give them an easy assignment in the first round.

Dayrit said Go is an excellent prospect in his division, considering "he's a very talented athlete."

Dayrit and Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, are looking forward to the taekwondo competitions to salvage what had been a fruitless campaign going into the final stages of the Games.

Under the unique format of the competition, four wins would give any of the three Filipinos the gold medal and three wins the silver.

"We have a big chance of winning a medal," said Buhain, whose agency funds and oversees the training of the athletes competing here. He said qualifying for the limited slots in the Olympics was already an achievement for the three Filipinos and that should give them a realistic chance of winning the gold.

"I saw how they prepared," said Buhain. He said President Arroyo was pinning her hopes on the three Filipinos to win a medal.

"She looks forward to the final half of the Olympics because of taekwondo," he said. The President had sent her good wishes to the 16-man Philippine contingent twice, once before their departure from Manila and then during the Games.

"The President is hoping we could still win a medal," Buhain said.

Dayrit said that because of the nature of competition in taekwondo, the Filipinos have better chances of winning a medal in the ancient Korean martial art, which became part of the official Olympic program in Sydney in 2000.

The field is limited to only 16 entries in each of the four weight categories for men and four for women. To widen the base of participation in the Olympics, no country can field an entry in each of the eight categories. In fact, each delegation can field an entry in only two classes for men and two for women.

This precludes any domination by powerhouse teams like South Korea.

While the 16-year-old Rivero will have a Korean in her class, the two Filipinos in the men's categories won't have to contend with a Korean. But that does not mean that their categories are any less difficult.

The 20-year-old Go, the first Filipino to qualify for the Athens Games, will have to contend with the likes of defending champion Michalis Mouroutsos of Greece.

Although the local hero fared poorly in last year's world championship, the hometown crowd is expected give him a boost against any opponent.

Also in Go's group is Chinese Taipei's Chu Mu Yen, the reigning

PROSPECTS/ A19

RP SCHEDULE

Thursday,
Aug. 26, 2004
(*All times Manila time*)
Taekwondo
Faliro Sports Pavilion
(Men's Under 58 kg; Preliminaries,
4:12 to 5:57 p.m.)
Tshomlee Go

WHAT'S INSIDE

▪ SEAG cancellation an extreme option /A18

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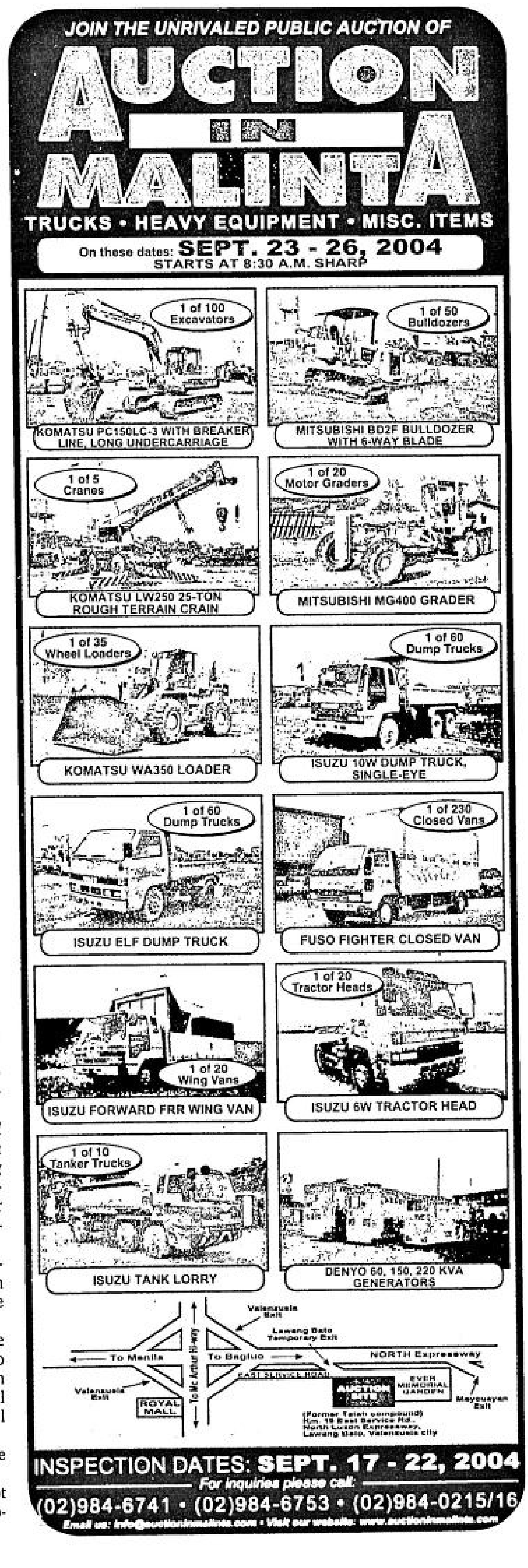

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Bayanihan wins in Athens Games

By Recah Trinidad

ATHENS—The golden feat will not register in the official medal tally, but the pride and joy it brought to Filipino workers here could be equal to a victory in the Olympic competition proper.

The Bayanihan dance troupe, national folk dance company of the Philippines, thrilled and captivated here at the Technopolis in the Gazi district for the second straight night Tuesday in what many in the big crowd noted was an achievement equal to an Olympic gold medal.

The great performance could've indeed come as a consolation to a great horde of Filipino overseas workers here who have started to feel frustrated over the poor performance of the Philippine contingent in the Olympic field.

But more than soothe the pride of Pinoys in this sunny, dignified capital, Bayanihan's well-applauded stint, vivid with warm, graceful, bright, precise and liquid numbers, was hailed as a confirmation of a people's golden heritage.

So thrilled and touched was a big group of Filipino workers that they threw an impromptu party among *kababayans* in the residence of Batangueña Pita Avinante, a 23-year resident of Athens after Tuesday's show.

"You bet it was as good as an Olympic gold," swore Belgian Patrick Blomme, an immigrant who strayed into the cultural affair and instantly fell in love with the Philippines.

Pablo Farrales, a visitor with sharp Castillian features, called Bayanihan very professional, adding he was not surprised that the group continued to win awards and captivate international audiences.

ATHENS 2004

The foreign dignitary said the RP government should exert effort to send more goodwill ambassadors like the Bayanihan abroad.

The troupe, now called the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company, performed here upon the invitation of Deputy Mayor Panos Loukakos for it to participate in "Celebrating Cultures," part of the 2004 Olympics cultural program.

Fittingly, the world-renowned troupe was coming in from the 47th International Folk Festival in Italy, where it won the coveted Gold Temple Award and the Absolute Gold Award for overall excellence in dance, music, costume and production.

If foreigners were awed, Filipinos in the audience were overjoyed, rewarded.

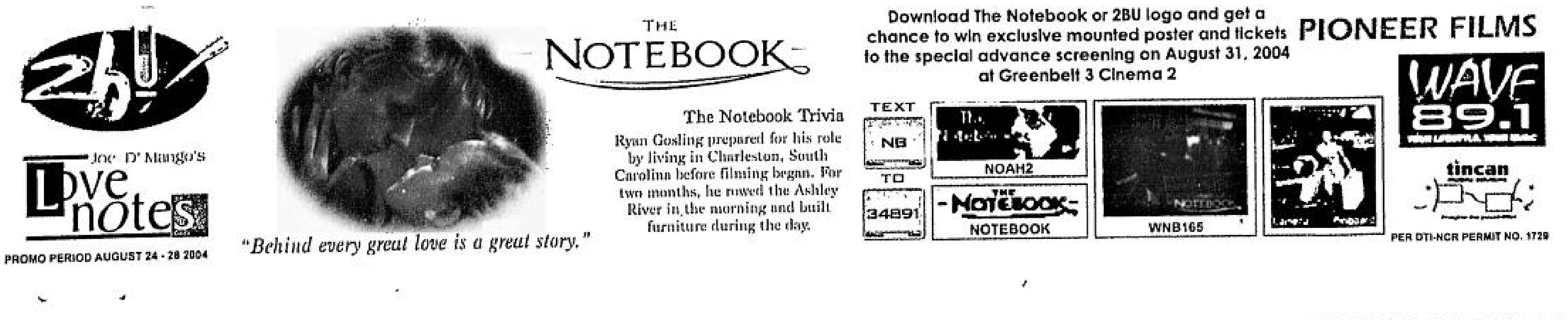
"Malungkot 'talaga kami dahil walang nanalong Filipino *sa* Olympics. *Pinaligaya kami ng* Bayanihan, *napakaganda po talaga,"* attested Carol Bravo, a mother of two who works with the RP embassy educational section.

Freddie Abando of the National Broadcasting Network confirmed that the over a dozen foreigners he had interviewed all offered rave comments.

Bayanihan's splendid stint here could serve as a timely send-off for three RP taekwondo jins, set to plunge into action starting today in the country's last-ditch bid to land a medal following the fall of the four-man national boxing team.

Expectations, as usual, are high for the jins.

But whether they succeed or not, it cannot be said here that RP never had a golden moment in the Athens Olympics.



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SEAG cancellation an extreme option

By Jong Arcano

CAN a government already in the throes of a fiscal crisis still manage to spend heavily on a sports undertaking like the Southeast Asian Games next year?

The question cropped up as national anxiety heightened over the recent declaration by President Macapagal-Arroyo that the country is already in the midst of a fiscal crisis.

With a SEAG budget of no less than P1 billion and in the light of GMA's call for austerity measures, the possibility of the Philippines' passing up on its hosting right suddenly emerged on the horizon.

"It's an extreme option," Rep. Monico Puentevalla was quoted as saying during another meeting yesterday among key officials evaluating the budget requirements for the SEAG held at the residence of equestrian head Peping Cojuangco.

Based on the latest projections from the various National Sports Associations, the SEAG bill went down to P1.2 billion from the original estimate of P1.9 billion not too long ago.

Most of the amount will be for the renovation of venues and purchase of equipment but minus the usual allotment for training of the national squad which is hoping to capture the overall championship.

The Department of Budget and Management, however, is willing to apportion only P30 million for the SEAG.

The SEAG team, headed by Puentevella and Cojuangco, which include officials from the Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philsoc, is trying to find "survival measures" that will make next year's hosting feasible.

The measures include sourcing out potential revenues through no-nonsense marketing efforts especially in the handling of the broadcast coverage.

In recent consultations with the PSC and the POC, the NSAs were reminded to come up with realistic minimum budgets for their respective sports.

There have been instances when a country gave up the right to host the SEAG, but none has done so with a little less than a year before the event is held.

BOXING OR WRESTLING? Andre Ward of the US (left) grapples with Russia's Evgeny Makarenko during their men's light heavy weight quarter-finals bout. Ward won. REUTERS

Putra Cuppers rally, jrs grab 2nd

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPPO Karawaci, Indonesia—Tiny Boyet Saragoza and a junior team that could be mistaken for basketball players saved Philippine pride in the second day of the Putra Cup.

The 5-foot-2 Saragoza capped a three-under 69 at the Imperial Klub Golf with a 45-foot sidehill putt for birdie as the Philippines rebounded somewhat from a lackluster first day with a 215, one-under for the day and a 434 total.

From fifth, the Nationals climbed a notch and trailed the Malaysians by 24 strokes after Ben Leong scorched the tree-lined, hazard-laden course with an immaculate 65 to wrest the individual lead from Thailand's Wisut Artjanawat.

Michael Bibat rallied from a 39 on the front nine with an eagle, two birdies and a bogey, shooting a level 72 while Marvin Dumandan floundered in the final four holes, his 74 still counting as the third-best score for the Filipinos.

Jun Bernis, the steadiest RP performer in Day One, three-putted six times and had a total of 38 putts for the round, signing for a 76 and failing to count.

Six-foot-1 Matthew Manotoc, with father Tommy following in the small gallery, was the first Filipino junior to crack par, churning out a 71 like Tonlits Asistio a couple of flights later.

The juniors, who are battling for the first-ever Lion City Cup, also got a 72 from six-foot Gino Bunyi to pool a total of 214 for the day and 433 after 36 holes. The fourth RP tall boy, Laurence Negrido, struggled with a 76.

They overtook Malaysia for second spot, 15 strokes behind the favored Thais who were led by Teerawat Paipong's 67. Malaysia carded a 224 and has a 442 total.

Saragoza, who turned in an 80 Tuesday, had five birdies and two bogeys, one of them a two-foot putt on the par-4 17th. He hardly made a dent on the opposition in the individual standings, though, as he is tied for 18th with two others.

Bibat sealed his even par round with a lob wedge from 65 yards on the par-5 18th that landed six feet from the cup. After a 73 Tuesday, the 20-year-old is tied for ninth with Myanmar's Thein Zaw Myint with 145s.

Leong, enrolled at the Leadbetter Academy in Florida for the last two years, now leads with a 134 total, 10-under counting his 69 on Tuesday.

Wisut finished with bogeys in the last four holes to settle for a 72 and now trails Leong by three heading into the final 36 holes.

Caguioa gets ₱15M offer from Ginebra

By June Navarro

AN OFFER fit for a Gin King.

Barangay Ginebra has dangled a long-term pact worth P14.7 million to Mark Caguioa in recognition of his explosive performance in the PBA Fiesta Conference that ended last month.

Caguioa, who spearheaded the Gin Kings' title run in the Fiesta Conference, was offered the maximum allowable monthly take of P350,000 up to July 2008 aside from perks and bonuses.

By the end of the Kings' three-and-a-half-year contract proposal, the 6-foot-1 Caguioa will only be 27 years old, which is considered the peak of most players in the league.

The offer came a day after the Gin Kings extended the contracts of Bal David, Rodney Santos, Banjo Calpito and Estong Ballesteros until July 2005.

Player-agent Danny Espiritu said the players got automatic extensions under a PBA rule urging teams to schedule the end of the contracts before a new season unfurls.

And since the league has shifted to a fiscal year beginning October until June, player contracts now end on a July instead of the traditional December schedule.

Espiritu said the contracts of David, Calpito, Ballesteros and Santos would be evaluated at the end of the All-Filipino Cup in February.

"Once evaluated, the Ginebra management will decide if it will renew these players after July," added Espiritu.

Meanwhile, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said the PBA would most likely retain the services of ABC-5 as the league's official coverer.

Knights rip Lions with strong finish

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LETRAN Knights staged an incredible comeback as the defending champions rose from an 18-point deficit in the fourth quarter to crush the San Beda Lions, 79-70, in overtime in the 80th NCAA senior basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Rookie center Mark Andaya proved unstoppable at the paint, shooting 12 of his career-high 25 points in Letran's fourth-period attack from 58-40.

In the other senior contest, the St. Benilde Blazers threw a dark cloud on the Mapua Cardinal's Final Four bid with a 103-97 stunner.

It was St. Benilde's first win in 12 games.

Letran remained on top with Perpetual Help and Philippine Christian at 8-4, while San Beda and Mapua remained a game behind San Sebastian at 6-6.

Andaya, a prized 6-foot-7 transferee from Manuel L. Quezon University, presided over a 13-2 rally that cut the lead by seven points, 60-53. Then Aaron Aban and Ronjay Enrile shot back-to-back triples that gave Letran the edge, 67-64, 23 seconds remaining.

Letran seemed headed for the win with a 68-66 lead in the final two seconds, but Lion Jerome Paterno's undergoal stab at the buzzer sent the game into overtime.

The Knights, however, limited the Lions to a single field goal in the extension.

In junior play, the Greenies remained in Final Four contention after routing the Robins, 83-63, for a 6-5 record.

The scores:

Third game (Srs)

LETRAN 79—Andaya 25, Rodriguez 14, Enrile 14, Alcaraz 9, Bautista 7, Aban 6, Aldave 4, Mondragon 0, Realista 0, Anabo 0.

SAN BEDA 70—Paterno 17, Bombeo 11, Hudencial 9, Angeles 8, Bughao 6, Cordero 5, Aljamal 5, Arbole 4, Cruz 3, De Guzman 2, Weber 0.

Quarters: 14-21, 28-38, 40-58, 68-68, 79-70.

BADMINTON SALE: Jade Lopez and Yasmin Kurdie play in the recent Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup 2004. Sportshouse, the leading sporting goods retailer and organizer/promoter of basketball, darts and badminton events, has launched its "Absolute Price Drop" sale campaign this month.

Archers battle Falcons

ALTHOUGH De La Salle had set impressive winning-streak records in the past, the Taft-based cagers, interestingly, have yet to win three consecutive games this season.

The Archers hope to get on a three-game roll, though, today when they battle the Adamson Falcons in the UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"Our goal is to be really consistent,'" said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Team manager Terry Capistrano noted that the Archers are in high spirits after beating Ateneo last Sunday. "Adamson is a tough foe, but we are determined to keep our winning ways and use our victory over Ateneo as springboard for more wins," Capistrano said. We need to keep our focus.

In the other senior game, the University of the East Warriors try to bounce back from a heartbreaking two-point loss when they meet the University of Santo Tomas Tigers at 1:30 p.m. *Jasmine W. Payo*

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs UST (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UE vs UST (Srs)
*4 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

FOOTBALL FIESTA: A Kadayawan-inspired set is backdrop to the ceremonial first-ball in the opening rites of the "Red Ribbon Football Fiesta" in Davao City recently. Preparing to kick footballs are Davao City Councilors Mabel Acosta and Leo Avila, Red Ribbon's Tito Autor and Davao Football Association's Pops Vilela.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao unstoppable in fourth leg

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance ruled the fourth leg of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently. Jao, also backed by Kawasaki and Rolex Engineering, was at his best in the 2004 Shell Advance Superbikes Series, leaving close rivals Toti Alberto of Ducati-Access Plus and Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex eating dust for a sweep of the Expert class. In the morning race, Alberto came side by side with Jao in the first five laps but failed to sustain his momentum as the seven-time Road Bike champ pulled away and finished the race in 20:14.958. Alberto checked in 21.530 seconds later for runner-up honors while Randy Ortiz took third place.

Pacita Half Marathon slated

THE PACITA Half Marathon 2004 will holds its inaugural staging on Oct. 10 at the Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna. Organized by Tropang Pacita and sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa), the race will be run at the Old National Highway traversing the towns of San Pedro and Biñan and Sta. Rosa City in Laguna. Tropang Pacita president Sonny A. Ordona said the race includes a five-kilometer (5K) fun run. For inquires, call Ordona (09178191123), steering committe chair; Dr. May Bonaldos, registration committee chair; Ver Patanao (0927-2157192), finance committee chair; or Mike Reodique (0927-2456705), race director.

St. Joseph scores double victory

ST. JOSEPH Academy-Las Piñas began its campaign in the 5th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) volleyball competitions with a flourish as its boys and girls teams scored pulsating wins over Colegio San Agustin-Biñan at the University of Perpetual Help Dalta System-Molino Gymnasium. The boys' team of St. Joseph crushed CSA, 25-18, 25-16, 15-25, 25-23, before its girls' counterparts matched the feat with a 25-12, 25-22, 29-27 victory over the same school. St. Francis of Assisi College-System's boys and girls teams fortified their hold of the lead with their third straight triumphs in this 11-member league featuring the top schools of Southern Luzon.

Gorres fights Thai veteran Sept. 4

AFTER the scintillating WBO Asia Pacific title triumph of Rey "Boom-Boom" Bautista , another exciting encounter explodes at the Mandaue City Sports Complex on Sept. 4. After almost a year of absence from the Cebu arena, Z "The Dream" Gorres fights again in front of his Cebuano fans who last saw him in October 2003 when he knocked out Ryan Campeceño of Elorde. Gorres will climb the ring against the veteran and WBO No. 8 contender Sairung Suwanasil of Thailand. They have contrasting styles. Gorres is a skillful and stylish counterpuncher while Suwanasil is a banger and a knockout artist. The 22-year-old Gorres parades a 17-1-1 win-loss-draw record with 10 knockouts while Suwanasil holds a 31-4 win-loss slate with 20 KOs. Gorres is slated to leave on Sept. 8 to train under Freddie Roach of the famed Wild Card boxing gym in Los Angeles. ***Salven Lagumbay, contributor***

Las Piñas 6-stag derby begins

THE "LAS Piñas Annual 6-Stag Derby" championship round sizzles today at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum with 68 matches on tap starting at 5 p.m. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor-Casino Filipino. The event opened with the elimination round Tuesday night, participated in by 61 entries. Thirty-four survivors will slug it out in today's four-stag finals. Among the pacesetters are the entries of Jet and Joel Fernando (1st Araneta 7-Stag Aug. 31 and Sept. 2), Sen. Ramon Revilla (Cavite Coliseum International, Nov. 29), GCAP president Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Hammer), Boy Royo and Pol Estrellado (PEBR). For details, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Sotto wins Hong Kong tourney

PAULINA Sotto, daughter of television host Vic, won the Class F (11-12 years division) championship of the recent McGregor-Hong Kong Open junior golf championships at the Discovery Bay Golf and Country Club. Sotto beat a big field from Asian nations to join the country's growing list of international tourney winners. Her teammate, Katya dela Cruz, placed third. Other jungolfers who have scored big victories recently are JR Gonzales (Junior World), Dottie Ardina and Miguel Tabuena (US Kids world championship) and AR Ramos (Pepsi Little People) in the United States and Marcel Puyat in the Asian Junior Masters in Indonesia.

St. Clare survives another scare

ST. CLARE College (Caloocan) survived another scare, this time against STI College, 80-79, to tighten its grip on second place in the Naascu men's basketball tournament at the UM gym. Exactly two days after barely beating New Era University, 82-81, the Saints needed a strong finish to frustrate the Olympians and escape with their eighth win in 11 matches in the nine-team, double-round tournament. In the women's division, AMA Computer University crushed Holy Angel University (Pampanga), 78-45.

Chao notches back-to-back victories

TWO-TIME World 9-Ball champion Fong Pang Chao of Chinese-Taipei outplayed the Philippines' Antonio "Nickoy" Lining, 9-2, yesterday to score his second straight win in Day Two of the RP-Taiwan 9-Ball Challenge at the Octagon Hall of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

The win pulled the Taiwanese closer to the Filipinos, 10-8, in their battle for the $40,000 champion's purse.

Later in the night, however, Dennis Orcollo beat Pei We fu, 9-5, to give the Filipinos a safer 12-9 lead.

Chao also recorded the lone Taiwan win in Day One when he rallied from 0-3 down to beat top RP bet Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo, 9-7.

This time, Chao hardly worked a sweat to dispose Lining.

Lining, a 9-7 winner over Ching-Shun Yang Tuesday, had a chance to turn the tide after Chao allowed him to step back into the table with a rare bad break. But Lining bungled another clear shot at the two-ball.

In other Tuesday matches, Antonio Gabica routed Po-Cheng Kuo, 9-1, Gandy Valle defeated Che-Wei Fu, 9-5, and Orcollo whipped Pei-Wei Chang, 9-3.

Today's matches feature four doubles with the winning side getting four points and the loser getting two. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

RUSSIA'S Yelena Isinbayeva breaks the pole vault record with a 4.91-m leap. REUTERS

FIRST IN ATHENS

Russian breaks world mark

ATHENS, Greece—In his third Olympics, Hicham El Guerrouj finally got his gold medal Tuesday, Roman Sebrle broke a 20-year-old Olympic record to win the decathlon and Yelena Isinbayeva set the Games' first world mark to capture the pole vault title on an action-packed day at the Olympic Stadium.

El Guerrouj, four-time world 1,500-meter champion, has lost just four races in the last eight years, but two of those defeats came at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

The Moroccan stumbled and fell on the last lap and finished last at Atlanta, then blew a lead in the final meters at Sydney and later confessed he had been overcome by pre-race stress.

His legs and his nerves held up Tuesday.

Bernard Lagat, bronze medalist in Sydney, accelerated down the home stretch but El Guerrouj fended off his attack to win in 3 minutes, 34.18 seconds. Lagat was second in 3:34:30 and Rui Silva of Portugal got the bronze in 3:34.68

With the gold finally his, the Moroccan kissed the ground after crossing the finish line. Lagat was the first to congratulate his good friend, and the two hugged while on their knees.

Sebrle added the Olympic gold medal—and the Olympic mark—to his world record by completing a come-from-behind victory in the decathlon.

He collected 8,893 points over the grueling two-day event to break Daley Thompson's 20-year-old Olympic record of 8,847.

The Czech, who holds the world record at 9,026, finally captured his first major title after taking silver four years ago in Sydney and finishing second at last year's world championship.

The other two decathlon medalists also set records. Bryan Clay of the United States set a personal best 8,820 for the silver and Dmitriy Karpov of Kazakhstan set an Asian record at 8,725 for the bronze.

Sebrle climbed his way from fourth and took the lead only after the javelin, the ninth of the 10 events, with a toss of 70.52 meters.

Clay also climbed to second after the javelin, while Karpov lost the lead and dropped to third.

Isinbayeva cleared 4.91 meters to improve her own world record by one centimeter, set in London on July 30, and break the mark for the fourth time this summer.

Her Russian compatriot and rival Svetlana Feofanova, a former world record holder and world champion, settled for silver at 4.75 and Anna Rogowska of Poland took bronze at 4.70.

Joanna Hayes of the United States won the 100-meter hurdles in an Olympic-record time of 12.37 seconds after Canadian favorite Perdita Felicien tripped over the first hurdle and did not finish the race.

Felicien, the reigning world champion, hit the first hurdle and stumbled into Russia's Irina Shevchenko—sending both sprawling to the track.

The Russian team filed a protest and asked for a rerun. There was no immediate ruling.

Olena Krasovska of Ukraine won silver in 12.45 and Melissa Morrison of the United States was third in 12.56—if the results are confirmed. *AP*

Tim, Allen confident as US battles Spain

ATHENS—Allen Iverson and Tim Duncan are worlds apart in style, but what they bring to the United States Olympic team of National Basketball Association talent might be what brings the stars into alignment.

The co-captains lead an improved but vulnerable US squad against unbeaten Spain here Thursday in the quarterfinals, which also include Argentina playing Greece, Puerto Rico meeting Italy and unbeaten Lithuania against China.

The Americans are optimistic they can put losses to Lithuania and Puerto Rico behind them. A loss to Spain and they would become the first US team in Olympic history that fails to win a medal.

"I'm really confident," Duncan said. "We've learned a lot coming through this tournament and I think we're in a great position. We're happy where we are at. We feel good going into this. We're pretty excited about our opportunity."

Carrying the biggest responsibility for US success are Iverson and Duncan, the elders of a young team more familiar with solo moves than the team play so vital under international rules.

"Everyone looks to Allen and Tim," US coach Larry Brown said. "Allen is the oldest. He likes this responsibility. All of the kids coming into this league realize what a talented player he is and respect what he has accomplished." Iverson carries the spirit of the team on his tatooed arms. Known for spats with coaches and brushes with the law as well as backcourt skill, Iverson has set aside flamboyant NBA 1-on-1 moves to be a guiding force on a young team.

"It doesn't matter who we face or when we face them. We just want to beat everybody and get the gold medal," Iverson said. "I definitely think we can. If I didn't, there's no need for me to lace my sneakers up." *AFP*

British teen gains semis, sets record

ATHENS—British teenager Amir Khan produced another stunning performance on Tuesday to become the youngest Olympic boxing medalist in over 50 years.

The classy 17-year-old lightweight reached the semifinals by destroying South Korea's Baik Jong-sub, who was stopped by the referee with 23 seconds remaining in the opening round.

The losers of the semifinals getting a bronze, Khan has already done enough to become the youngest medalist in the history of the Games since Floyd Patterson in 1952.

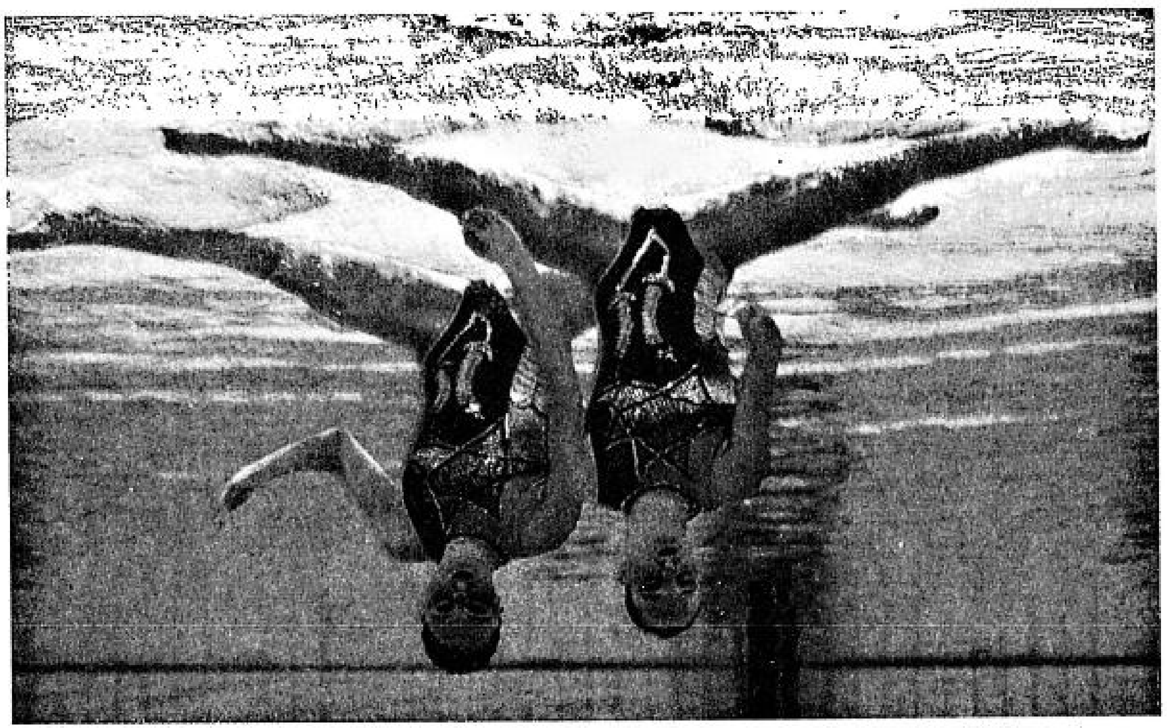
The American went on to win the title and Khan's amazing displays so far have strongly suggested he too could win more than bronze.

"I'll take it one fight at a time but I'm confident," said Khan, who will meet Serik Yeleuov of Kazakhstan on Friday for a place in the final.

Khan can reasonably dream of featuring in the gold medal contest, in which he would be likely to meet Cuba's Mario Kindelan, arguably the world's finest amateur boxer.

Defending champion Kindelan, nearly twice Khan's age at 33, also advanced on Friday, regaining composure after being floored in the second round to outpoint Rovshan Huseynov of Azerbaijan, 23-11.

Light-flyweight action had started the night's program with world champion Sergey Kazakov of Russia advancing with an 18-11 decision over Namibia's Joseph Jermia. *Reuters*



AFTER the speed and power of the pool races comes the grace of synchronized swimming as Israel's Anastasia Gloushkov and Inna Yoffe perform their duet free routine. REUTERS

South Korean bets eye sweep

ATHENS—South Korea is looking forward to a sweep by its taekwondo bets as the 2,000-year-old Korean-born combat sport makes only its second appearance in the Olympics.

But the Koreans believe the Games will demonstrate how fast the rest of the world has caught up with them in the art of kicking, punching and yelling since its debut in Sydney.

"Our four competitors are all peaking without any problem. They have set their sights on four titles," South Korean head coach Kim Sei-Hyeok said here ahead of the four-day taekwondo competition beginning on Thursday.

South Korea have set out to surpass what they achieved in the Sydney Olympics—three golds and one silver. *AFP*

Prospects bright for 3 RP jins

From page A17

world titlist.

The enormous task of winning a gold medal—or any medal at all—fell on the shoulders of the taekwondo bets when the four-man boxing team fell one after another. First to fall was middleweight Christopher Camat followed by flyweight Violito Payla. Although light welterweight Romeo Brin and light flyweight Harry Tanamor won their first fights, they lost in the second round.

Not much was expected in swimming, shooting and archery. But lone Filipino bet Jasmin Figueroa stunned the archery world with an upset of former world champion Natalia Valeeva of Italy in the Round of 64 before going down fighting in the Round of 32, eventually winding up in 27th overall.

Philippine medal chances are likewise ruled out in athletics where Bulauitan could consider herself lucky to be out of last place in the long jump. A new Philippine record is a more realistic goal for the 29-year old mother. And long distance runner Buenavista may have to be content just to survive the marathon on Sunday.

Sports needs lots of funds says Monico

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MAKE sports a priority or forever be content being a mere spectator in the Olympics.

This was the assessment yesterday of Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, the weightlifting association president and former chair of the House committee on youth and sports, who arrived over the weekend from Athens.

He said the government and the private sector need to infuse funds into sports development programs if the Philippines wants to make a difference in the international sporting stage like the ongoing Olympics.

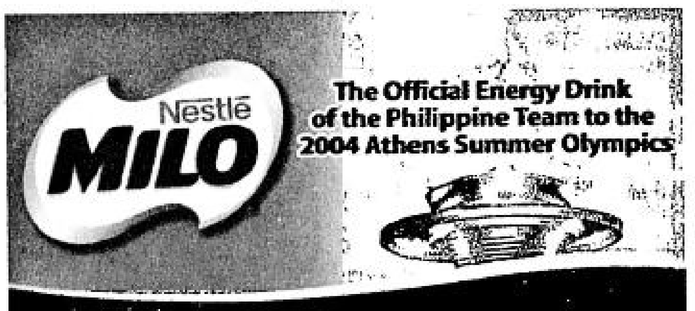
Puentevella added that the P500 million yearly budget of the Philippine Sports Commission will have to be increased to keep up with the demands of international exposure and acquisition of modern equipment and technology.

Of its total budget, the Congress gives P100 million annually to the PSC through the General Appropriations Act. The rest comes from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation through the National Sports Development Fund, which ranges from P25 million to P35 million.

The agency also gets income from the taxes levied on the importation of sports equipment and Sweepstakes races.

"There is no need actually to assess our Olympic campaign because our countrymen have seen on TV how our athletes fought and lost," Puentevella told the INQUIRER.

He cited the debacle in boxing where all the four bets got wiped out early in the preliminaries. The former PSC commissioner said the Filipino pugs clearly had the heart but not the know-how.



Nestlé MILO
The Official Energy Drink of the Philippine Team to the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics

ATHENS SUMMER OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	25	28	19	72
China	24	15	12	51
Japan	15	8	9	32
Australia	14	9	14	37
Russia	9	18	21	48
Germany	9	10	13	32
France	9	7	9	25
Italy	8	6	7	21
Romania	8	4	4	16
Ukraine	8	3	6	17
Great Britain	7	8	7	22
Korea	6	10	5	21
Greece	5	2	2	9
Netherlands	3	7	8	18
Hungary	3	6	1	10
Sweden	3	0	2	5
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Canada	2	4	1	7
Belarus	2	3	6	11
Poland	2	2	4	8
Slovakia	2	2	1	5
Bulgaria	2	1	5	8
Ethiopia	2	1	1	4
Georgia	2	1	0	3

Billiards, Olympic talents

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SOMEONE asked Bata Reyes sometime ago: "In your estimation, how many Filipinos can also do what you do on the billiards table?"

In Filipino, Bata's quick reply was: "Easily, more than 50."

"Have you seen some of them do the tricks that you do?"

"Oh, a lot of them, I've seen already," said Bata, the world's acknowledged Mr. Magician of billiards. "In fact, many of them have beaten me even before I became world champion."

If that's an eye-opener for you, it can only mean that, just like you, even the most avid sports fans don't know much about the state of affairs in Philippine sports.

Truth to tell, this country teems with talents just waiting to be tapped, not only in billiards, but also in almost all other disciplines played in the Olympics. Boxing, archery, bowling, taekwondo, track and field, swimming, football, gymnastics, judo, wrestling, name it, we've got them all, even ice skating.

What we haven't got, though, is chemistry. And by chemistry, I mean the harmonious mix of government, private and individual commitment.

By government and private, I mean total support and money from their side of the medal pie. By individual commitment, I mean the personal resolve of an athlete to excel no matter the odds.

By medal pie, I mean the ratio which the three have to contribute to win an Olympic medal, or any other medal staked in overseas battles.

Government and private share equally half of the medal pie, and the remaining half the athlete.

Always, it's the athlete who should take the brunt of the goal, and that is, to go for gold at all costs—"though the heavens fall."

***

The Philippines-Taiwan 9-Ball Challenge is another gauge of how far our billiards talents in this country have progressed.

Look, we have not even fielded our so-called best (Bata Reyes, Django Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan aren't around) but we are leading Taiwan's hot shots (one of them is two-time world champion, Fong Pang Chao) by a mile after Round 1 on Tuesday. I will not be surprised if we complete the victory with relative ease at the end of today's Solar Sports-sponsored matches at Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City. (Again, matches start at 2 p.m.)

But if we lose, fine. We shall have still attained our original goal anyway, and that is, to showcase to our Asian neighbors—if not to the world—the deep bench that we have when it comes to billiards. I tip my hat off to Wilson Tieng, chief of Solar Entertainment Corporation, for plunking out P2.2 million for the event. His gesture typifies that of the private sector's role to constantly support sports if we are to score medals internationally.

***

Remember Doming Itchon?

Well, he was PBA president for almost eight years, ending in 1982. It was through his guidance—in partnership with first PBA Commissioner Leo Prieto and the league's charter drafter Rudy Salud—that the basketball hoop has survived its most turbulent years "sailing the rough seas" on board a brand-new boat.

I was a young sportswriter then when the PBA was born in 1975. I had covered its birth pains, its slow but sure growth, and the crisis that snagged its advance when Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in 1983.

Through it all, Doming Itchon rode the storm endemic to a project just launched.

With Doming's death a few days back, the nation has lost a genuine sports leader. May an Itchon Cup be given soon to any of our teams winning a PBA crown. That's the least that we can do to pay tribute to the man known by everybody as a "friend to all."

***

OK now, to all the Elvis Presley fans out there, and that include certified Elvis mimics Edgar Opida and Chito Bertol, Merk's Place at Greenbelt 3 in Makati will honor the "King of Rock 'n' Roll" tonight by featuring Elvis wannabes. Today is the 50th year of the birth of Rock 'n' Roll and Richard Merk, that coolest of guys on Greenbelt Row, isn't one to pass up this chance to do his own bit in dedicating something to a phenomenon that has continued to "rock" the music scene since 1954.

So, fellow rock 'n' rollers like Franklin Leonor of Calauag, Quezon, see you tonight at Richard's Merk's Place?

***

FASTBREAK. My condolences go to fellow sportswriter Lito Cinco, whose mother, Remedios "Meding" Duque Cinco, died last Aug. 21. Her remains will be interred today at Heaven's Gate in Antipolo City.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mayor Vi: I'm willing to bargain

By Marinel R. Cruz

TF FACTOR. "The talent fee is not a major factor when I choose my movies," says Vilma. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"THE TALENT fee is never a factor when I choose the movies I make," said Vilma Santos, who was reported to be asking for P7 million to do "Mano Po 3" from MAQ Productions.

"I grew up in show biz," said Vilma, the mayor of Lipa City in Batangas who is also known as "the star for all seasons," as she denied the reports that "Mano Po 3" would be shelved because her talent fee was too steep. "I want to help the industry in any way I can. I'm willing to bargain for a good film.

"But the money from 'Mano Po 3' is not my priority right now," she said. "I'm actually waiting for the final draft of the script, which I was told would arrive on Aug. 26.

"But of course," she added, "I also want what's fair for me. Everything should be in order, especially the mode of payment."

"Mano Po 3," directed by Joel Lamangan, is an entry in the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

"I already gave my word to her," Vilma said, referring to producer Lily Monteverde, whose Regal Films is a sister company of MAQ Productions. "And to tell you frankly, I'm quite excited about the project."

Monteverde was reported to have said she was planning to cancel the movie because of lack of budget and that she might not afford to hire other actors because of Vilma's steep talent fee.

"I think talk about my talent fee came about when I gave (the producer) a copy of my contract with Star Cinema," Vilma explained. "I don't know where people got this P7 million when I never publicize my talent fee in the first place. Another report said it was P4 million."

Vilma last appeared in Chito Roño's "Dekada '70," also a Metro Manila Film Festival entry three years ago, and produced by Star Cinema. She won best actress awards for her performance as a wife and mother who becomes politically enlightened.

"I'm looking forward to shooting the film ('Mano Po 3')," she said. "It's my first time to work with Joel Lamangan.

"My role here is very different from my role in 'Baby Tsina' in the '70s," she added, referring to the movie directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya. "Here I speak Chinese."

"Mano Po 3" starts filming on Sept. 15, but

MAYOR VI/ A21

Episodic progression and jagged storytelling

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday, we were able to catch the "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode on musician **Toti Fuentes**' life. We appreciated the drama's inspiring thematic points and liked **Ricky Davao**'s portrayal of the protagonist (although he did look too "healthy" in the later scenes where Toti was supposed to be deathly ill and gaunt).

However, we were thrown off by the drama's episodic progression, which robbed the show of authentic and dynamic plot and character development.

This is the problem with dramatizations of celebrities' lives. The events tackled are so numerous and well-known that the storytelling must unselectively touch on too many of them with most scenes lasting for only a short time each.

The result is rather jagged storytelling that has a hard time effecting genuine buildup, catharsis and consequent illumination.

The problem is aggravated by the excessive use of narration in an attempt to tie the disjointed scenes together. This device further saps the drama of vitality, because things are described rather than shown.

This is one of the reasons why we don't favor dramatizations of celebrities' lives and travails. The additional problematic nature of the Toti Fuentes story was the fact that Toti worked so long in the States, which necessitated the staging of quite a number of sequences utilizing American locations and characters.

This meant additional costs and production values, which a TV show is not usually prepared to adequately provide. Thus, some scenes looked small, perfunctory and not all that believable.

Still, Toti's courage, compassion and resolute hope did come through, so the episode ended up as a rewarding viewing experience.

In future, however, we hope that our TV anthology shows are able to dramatize their stories with minimal use of narration, and with more substantial plot and character development, so they can become less nominal in their empathetic effect on viewers.

New films

BUENA Vista International is releasing these new films during the second half of 2004: "National Treasure," with rival treasure hunters led by an archaeologist (**Nicolas Cage**) searching for a massive war chest reportedly hidden by **George Washington, Thomas Jefferson** and **Ben Franklin** to fund the Revolutionary War.

"Raising Helen." When her sister and brother-in-law die in a car accident, **Kate Hudson** takes on the role of guardian of their three surviving young children. As expected, everybody has a tough time—but rewarding lessons are learned.

"Ladder 49." Trapped in a deadly fire, a fireman (**Joaquin Phoenix**) looks back on his life, career and marriage as he awaits rescue.

"Shall We Dance?" A workaholic lawyer's (**Richard Gere**) life and marriage take an unexpected twirl when he follows a beautiful woman (**Jennifer Lopez**) to a Chicago dance studio and becomes a ballroom dance competitor!

'Death of Diana'

LOCAL fans of the late Princess **Diana** will be especially interested in viewing Discovery Channel's new "Unsolved History" series, "Death of Princess Diana." Discovery marks the anniversary of Diana's death this month with an in-depth investigation of the tragic accident that killed her.

The series, which premieres at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 30, presents detailed examinations, reenactments, key eyewitnesses and experts who are interviewed in great detail to determine exactly what happened, and why.

Joined by host and historical consultant **Daniel Martinez**, the "Unsolved History" forensics team goes to France to examine the crash site.

Investigators uncover clues that seem to contradict the official record of events. And photographic and acoustic experts challenge paparazzi's accounts of what happened before, during and after the accident.

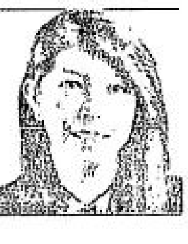
Back in the United States, expert stunt drivers meticulously reconstruct the crash. Forensic pathologists make surprising observations regarding the car passengers' injuries.

Contesting the official story, scientific data and verifiable eyewitness testimony combine to create a startling portrait of the last five minutes of the princess' life.

With that as teaser and prologue, you can bet we'll be watching!

2 networks to air 2 versions of Rico Yan story

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

A FEW months back, an insider tipped me off that GMA-7's "Magpakailanman" got the rights for the life story of **Rico Yan**. I wondered why Rico's home studio ABS-CBN 2 is not featuring his story on "Maalaala Mo Kaya?"

Just last Tuesday, I got a text message saying the late matinee idol's bio would be dramatized on "Magpakailanman" soon. But Bobby clarified to me that ABS-CBN would have its version on "MMK."

I think **Bobby Yan** should portray his brother in the Rico Yan story to make it all the more meaningful. But then again, it might be too painful for Bobby yet.

I remember that when my mom's life story was featured on "Magpakailanman," some people were asking me why I didn't play the role of my mom. Besides the fact that I'm no actress, just the thought of trying to look and move like my mom left me incapacitated. Even in real life, I feel unworthy of being compared with her, although she always called me her "extension."

Bobby told me that everything is still in the planning stage with ABS-CBN. Isn't it uncanny that the battle of the networks rages on even when Rico is already in the Great Beyond?

Just asking

WHO was **Janno Gibbs** visiting in the hospital one rainy night? A curious bystander asked him what he was doing there and the comedian/host said he had a dental check-up. The strange thing is, there were no dentists on the floor where he was spotted. Perhaps Janno wanted some privacy? Secrecy?

As Dutch Boy paint's new endorser, **Robin Padilla** has embarked on a project to help paint mosques for his Muslim brothers.

Although he may have sincere intentions, it could also be a form of subliminal advertising. "Bad boy now a Dutch Boy"?

Star quotes

ARNEL Ignacio (on his messy separation from his wife Franny): "*Kahit bading ako, nagpapaka*-gentleman *ako kaya ayokong sagutin ang mga* accusations *niya sa akin*."

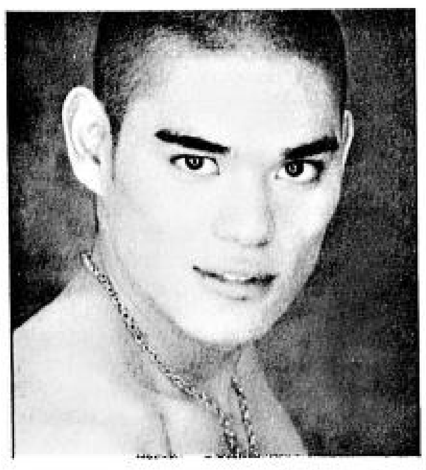
'Thankful' on TV

"THANKFUL" was a Gary V concert like no other.

Aside from the usual song and dance features and special effects, it also had emotionally charged song-and-video features of his mom and dad, special numbers with his children **Paolo**, 19, **Gabriel**, 16, and **Kiana**, 11, highlights of previous concerts in video clips from as far back as 1984, and several dance spots with Gabriel, the Manoeuvres and a youth dance ensemble from various churches.

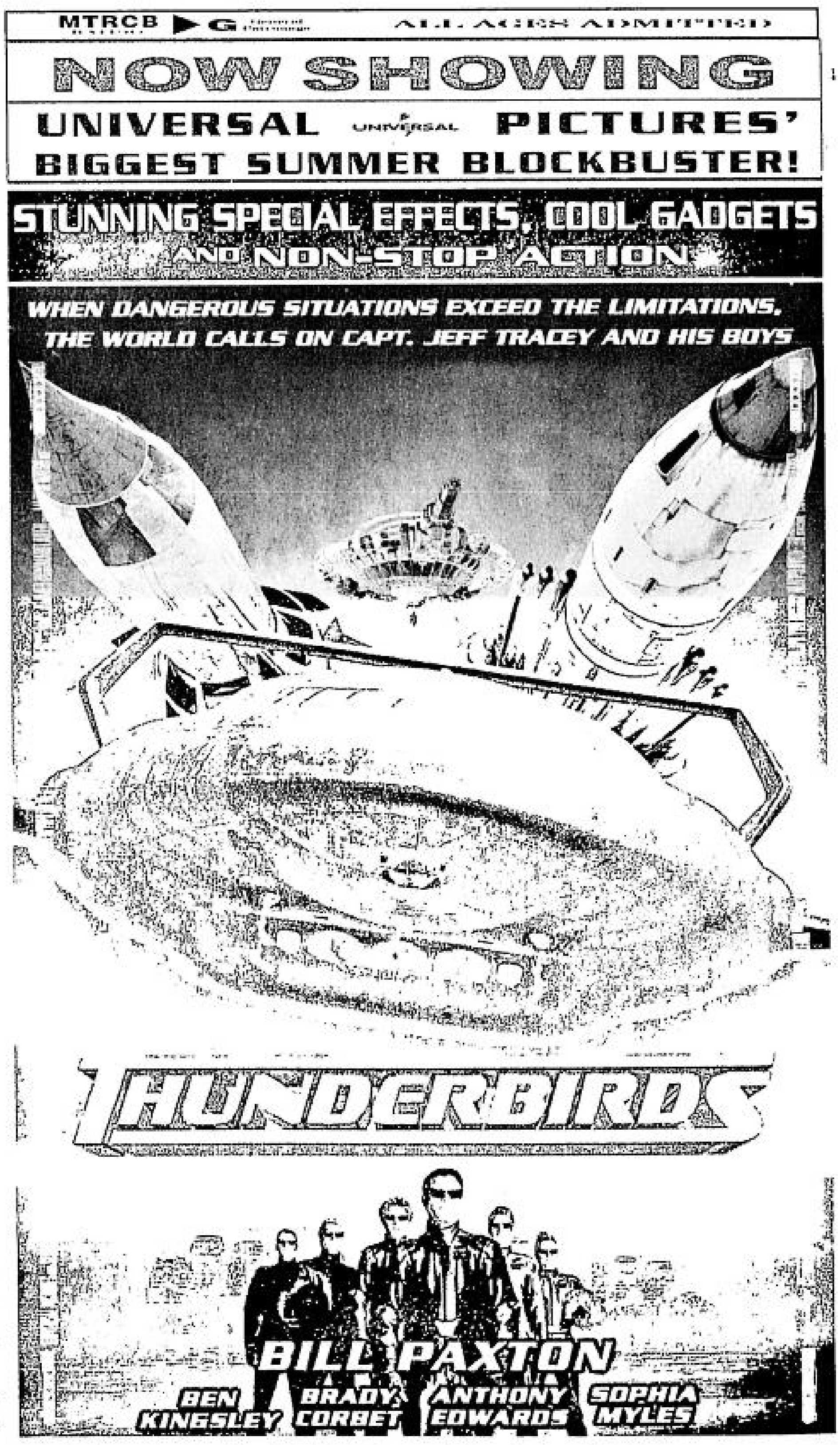
"Thankful" will be shown on Fri-

2 NETWORKS/ A22



JAY-R SPECIAL

Jay-R's "Gameface The Concert" will be shown on Thursday, Aug. 26, on Studio 23, starting at 10:30 p.m. The two-hour special features highlights of the Prince of R&B's recent three-day solo concert at the Music Museum, with performances by guests Keith Martin, Arnee, KC Montero, Janno Gibbs, the Myxtreme Band and the Whiplash dancers. Presented by Sun Cellular and Bench, the TV special is directed by Louie Ignacio, with musical direction by Mon Faustino.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Stars in anti-Bush online campaign

SAN FRANCISCO—"Bourne Supremacy" star Matt Damon, "Lost in Translation" actress Scarlett Johansson and other celebrity artists are donating their talents, not just their cash, to an online effort to unseat President George W. Bush.

The Internet political group MoveOn.org on Tuesday premieres 10 new anti-Bush ads created by award-winning directors and starring popular Hollywood actors.

An independent group formed in 1998 and not connected directly to Democratic candidate John Kerry, MoveOn has promised an unconventional approach to the presidential election.

"It makes a real difference when performers and visual artists can use their talent as an attraction," said Marty Kaplan, a scholar of politics and pop culture at the University of Southern California.

MoveOn showed its populist appeal with a "Bush in 30 Seconds" contest that generated hundreds of online anti-Bush ads, then spent millions airing the winning ad.

John Sayles, writer-director of "Sunshine State" and "Eight Men Out," teams with actor Martin Sheen for one ad. Doug Liman, who directed "Swingers" and "The Bourne Identity," reunites with Damon for another MoveOn spot.

Rob Reiner, the director of "When Harry Met Sally" and "The American President," uses Bush's own words in his 30-second ad. *AP*

Mayor Vi . . .

From page A20

Mayor Vi said she would "shoot only on weekends."

The mayor said she is busy attending to Lipa City's month-long Foundation Day celebration. She will also take part in the city's "Voices, Songs and Rhythms" contest on Aug. 28. Maestro Ryan Cayabyab is the contest's judge and special guest, she said.

She said the coronation night of the "Love Lipa" pageant will be on Aug. 29. A grand parade, which will include 50 floats, is slated on Aug. 31.

"I love what I'm doing for Lipa," said Mayor Vi. "But I also miss doing movies, as well as my friends in show biz."

She said she has already asked the permission of her constituents in Lipa, who agreed for her to do one movie a year. "They said they still want to see me on screen, at least once a year," she said.

"To make it up to them, I've been really busy for the past three months planning programs for Lipeños," she added. "So that when September comes, it will be all implementation.

"It's additional work for me, but I don't mind. My people inspire me *kasi*."

movietime
SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 COLLATERAL
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11 STEPFORD WIVES
12 THE VILLAGE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749
1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 I, ROBOT
3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 COLLATERAL
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE
11 GARFIELD
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 THE VILLAGE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 COLLATERAL
8 STEPFORD WIVES
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ELLA ENCHANTED
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 THE VILLAGE
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 CINDERELLA STORY
7 THUNDERBIRDS
8 COLLATERAL
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 COLLATERAL
5 THE ALAMO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 GARFIELD

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888
1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 CINDERELLA STORY
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE VILLAGE
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 STEPFORD WIVES
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173869
1 COLLATERAL
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 THE VILLAGE
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80
1 THE VILLAGE
2 GARFIELD
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876
1 THE ALAMO
2 THE VILLAGE
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
5 COLLATERAL
6 IMELDA
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422
1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
2 RESERVED
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 GARFIELD
6 THE VILLAGE
7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998
1 THE VILLAGE
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
5 GARFIELD
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1
THUNDERBIRDS
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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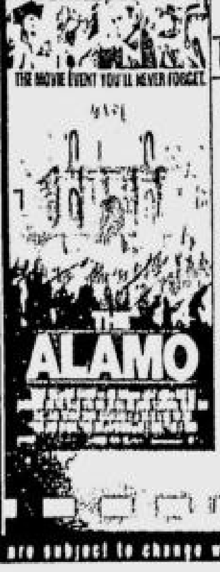
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THE ALAMO

SM CINEMA
Critics' CHOICE
USA

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THE ALAMO

Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans – men of all races who believed in the future of Texas – held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young brash Col. William Travis, the violent, passionate James Bowie, and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

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SM City Pampanga
MTRCB RATING PG13
For Screening schedules Dial [illegible]

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SHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
PG - 13 / FS: 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm, LMF: 9:50 pm
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm, LMF: 8:30 pm
3 (DOLBY) A CINDERELLA STORY
GP / FS: 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, LMF: 9:30 pm
4 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
PG - 13 / FS: 11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm LMF: 8:55 pm
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:30 pm, 3:20 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF: 9:00 pm

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS
2. ALIEN VS. PREDATO
3. RESERVED
4. PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 HAMOG
4 (SDDS) KARELASYON
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
7 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 YOUNG VIRGIN
2 HAMOG
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
2

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 THUNDERBIRDS

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Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel 911-3101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) PINCESS DIARIES 2
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THUNDERBIRDS
6 (Dolby) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MARKET! MARKET!
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 HAMOG
4 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 NIGHT MARE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 SYLVIA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DOLBY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) PEEP SHOW
2 HAMOG
3 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
4 (DTS) TURN ON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 SPARTAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 GARFIELD
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 HAMOG
2 CATWOMAN

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GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 THX PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3	JANDARA	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4	THUNDERBIRDS	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7	HAMOG	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 7:35, 9.50
8	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
9	THE STEPFORD WIVES	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
10	THE VILLAGE	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
2	JANDARA	10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9.50
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10 10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9.50
4	HAMOG	10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6.30, 8:30, 10 00
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7.50, 9:55
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10 30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9.50
7	THUNDERBIRDS	11:10, 1:30, 3 50 6 10, 8 20 10 00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2	THUNDERBIRDS	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2.00, 4:40, 7:20, 9.55
4	THE VILLAGE	10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 9.00
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:55, 2.35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4.50, 6.50, 8 45, 10:30
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
8	HAMOG	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 9:00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00
3	THUNDERBIRDS	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10.15, 12.45, 3:15, 5:45, 8.30
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 1:30, 3 40, 5 50, 8 00
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8:30
7	HAMOG	10:15, 12.25, 2.35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00
8	THE VILLAGE	11:20, 1.40, 4 00, 6 20, 8.40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

CAINTA 240-4661
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 HAMOG
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 ETRNAL SUNSHINE
2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 MANO-MANO 3
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 GARFIELD
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 THE VILLAGE

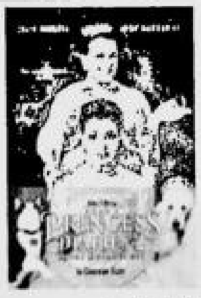
DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

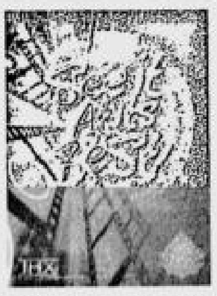
STARMILLS Sn. Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 MAKAMUNDO
3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 HAMOG
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 GARFIELD
3 THE VILLAGE
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 DEAD PEOPLE
6 MAKAMUNDO

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 THE VILLAGE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2





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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 (THX)	1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION (THX) 2 45, 4 50, 6 55, 9 00, 11 05	1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 THUNDERBIRDS	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 (THX) 1 55, 4 15, 6 35, 8 55, 11 15	2 THE VILLAGE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION (THX) 12 30, 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 A CINDERELLA STORY 1:30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THUNDERBIRDS	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 THE VILLAGE	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	4 DIRTY DANCING 2
5 THE STEPFORD WIVES		5 A CINDERELLA STORY	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2		
		7 THE STEPFORD WIVES		

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11 55, 2 00, 4.05, 6 10, 8 15
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	12 30, 2 50, 5 10, 7:30, 9 50

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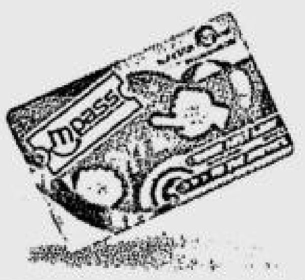

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based on the book by Carlo Collodi
Music by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy
Directed by Joy Virata
Choreographed by Joamo del Prado
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15 - 2 30 pm
September 11 - 10 30 am
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'Exorcist' prequel scares up big bucks

LOS ANGELES—A prequel to the classic 1970s horror flick "The Exorcist" possessed the competition and scared up the big bucks at the North American box office last weekend, final figures showed Monday.

"Exorcist: The Beginning," which tells of the events leading up to William Friedkin's 1973 movie, took $18.1 million in its North American debut, said box office trackers Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

The original movie memorably featured the young actress Linda Blair twisting her head around and projectile-vomiting green goo over a priest.

In second place at the box office was the outdoors slapstick comedy "Without a Paddle," which earned $13.5 million in ticket sales.

Disney's "Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement" earned $13.1 million.

Last week's box office champion, "Alien vs Predator," scored fourth place with $12.4 million.

The hair-raising deep sea thriller "Open Water" was fifth with $11.4 million.

Sixth was Tom Cruise's "Collateral," with a haul of $10.2 million, followed by spy thriller "The Bourne Supremacy" with $6.5 million.

The remake of 1962's "The Manchurian Candidate" came in eighth with $4 million, followed by M. Night Shayamalan's scary "The Village" with $3.7 million.

Rounding off the top 10 was the Japanese animated action-adventure flick "Yu-Gi-Oh: The Movie." *AFP*

Two networks to air...

From page A20

day, Aug. 27, 10:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

Supahstar auditions

FROM MTV comes the ultimate interactive talent search—MTV Supahstar–D' Supah Search.

Join the MTV Supahstar auditions on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the SM Megamall building A atrium. Registration starts at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Aug. 29, casting directors select the 20 Supahstar finalists from Manila.

The contest, presented by Smart Buddy, Petron Treats and SMB Play, is open to male and female non-professional artists, 18 to 25 years old. Awaiting the winners are P1 million worth of prizes, including an exclusive recording contract with Warner Music Philippines and a grand launching concert.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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It was also first runner-up in the MTV Band Alert held at the Hard Rock Cafe for their original song "Like You."

BigNiteOut's lead vocalists, Ajie Mendez and Opop Bueno, don't just sing on stage. They inspire their audience to sing, dance and laugh with them. Their repertoire covers the '70s to the present.

In December 2004, an all-original BigNiteOut album will be released.

For August, BigNiteOut is alternating with Overload Band at the premier party place in Malate, Arkdia at 542-544 Remedios St. every Friday night. They also host the weekly finals of Arkdia Idol.

Visit www.arkdia.com for more info.

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1 **ALIEN VS. PREDATOR**
11:45, 2:20, 4:55
7:20, 10:20
PG-13

2 **PRINCESS DIARIES 2**
12:00, 2:30, 5:00
7:20, 10:20
GP

3 **STEPFORD WIVES**
11:50, 2:00, 4:10
6:20, 8:30, 10:40
PG-13

4 **THUNDERBIRDS**
12:00, 2:40, 5:20
8:00, 10:40
GP

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THUNDERBIRDS GP 12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:10	**CINDERELLA STORY** GP 11:50,1:45,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	**LAWS OF ATTRACTION** PG13 12:00,2:00,4:05, 6:10,8:15,10:20

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Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 Dolby PRINCESS DIARIES 2
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

4 SDDS ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

5 dts THUNDERBIRDS
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

6 Dolby LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

7 Dolby NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

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Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

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star group of cinemas movie guide

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- Princess Diaries 2

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2 **PRINCESS DIARIES 2**
FS 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm
LMF 8:30 pm (GP)

3 **A CINDERELLA STORY**
FS 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm
7:30 pm, LMF 9:30 pm (GP)

4 **THE STEPFORD WIVES**
FS 11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm
LMF 8:55 pm (PG-13)

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P13

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HAMOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR/STEPFORD WIVES/CINDERELLA STORY/THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	VILLAGE
CINEMA-7	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-12	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-14	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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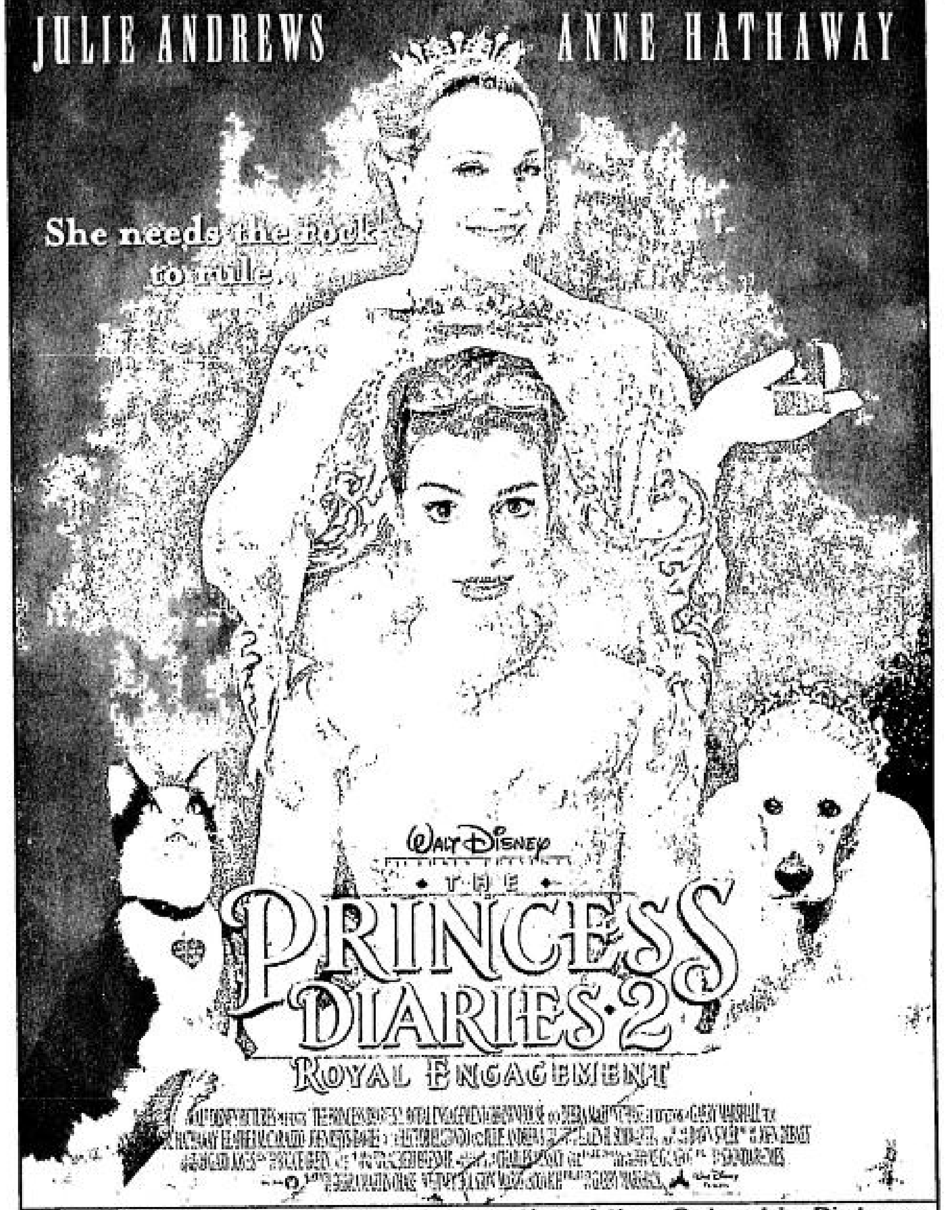

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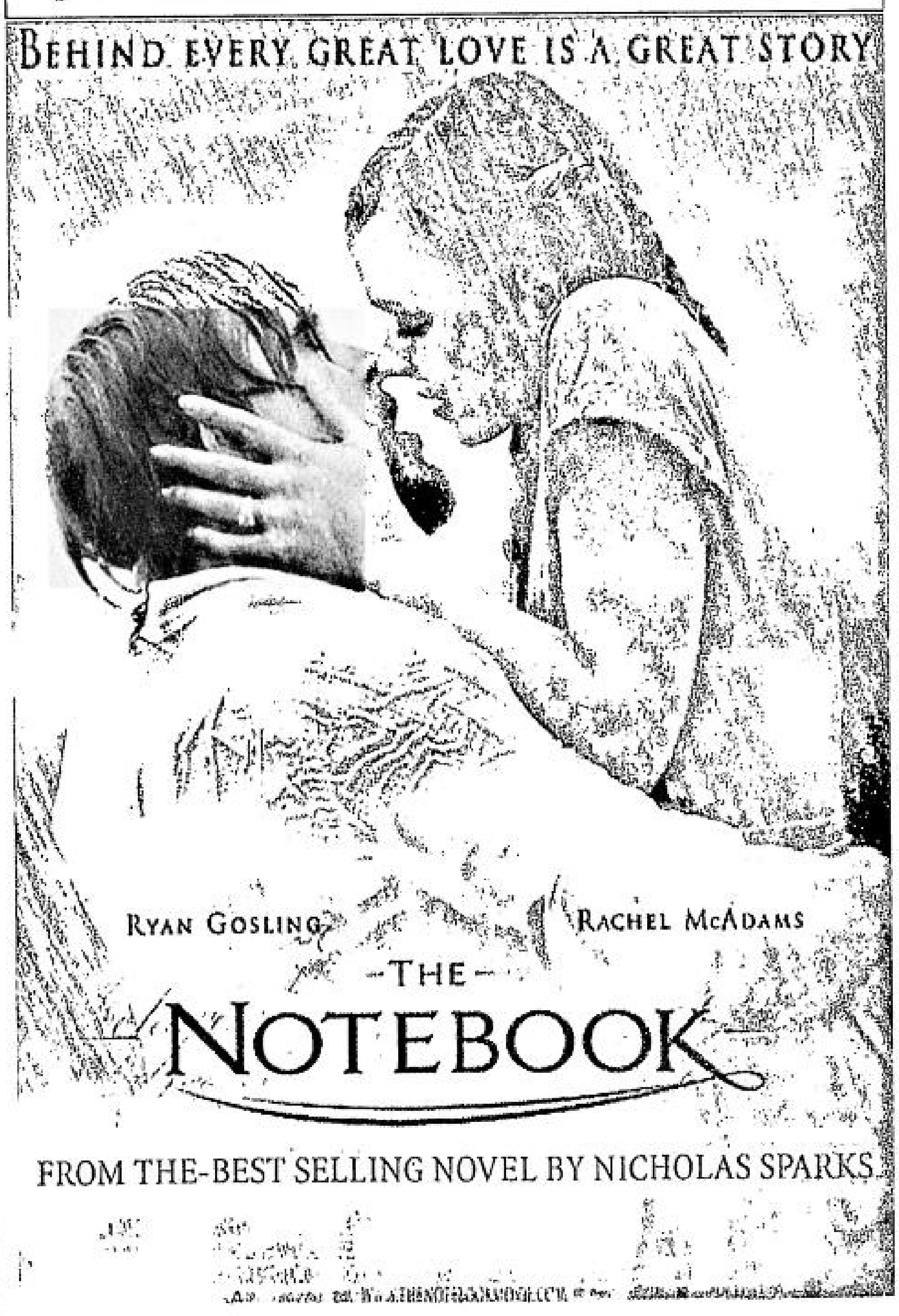

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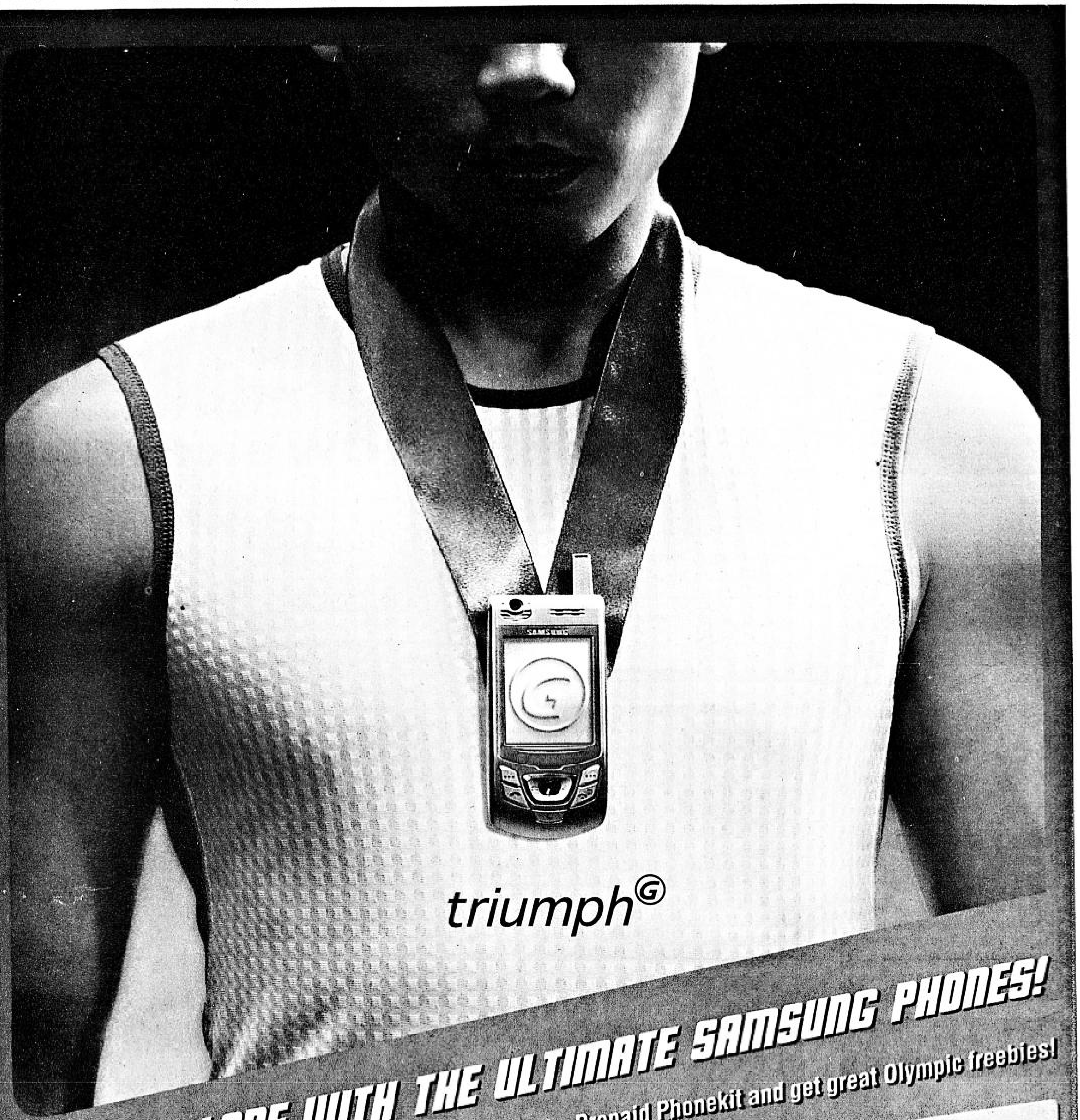

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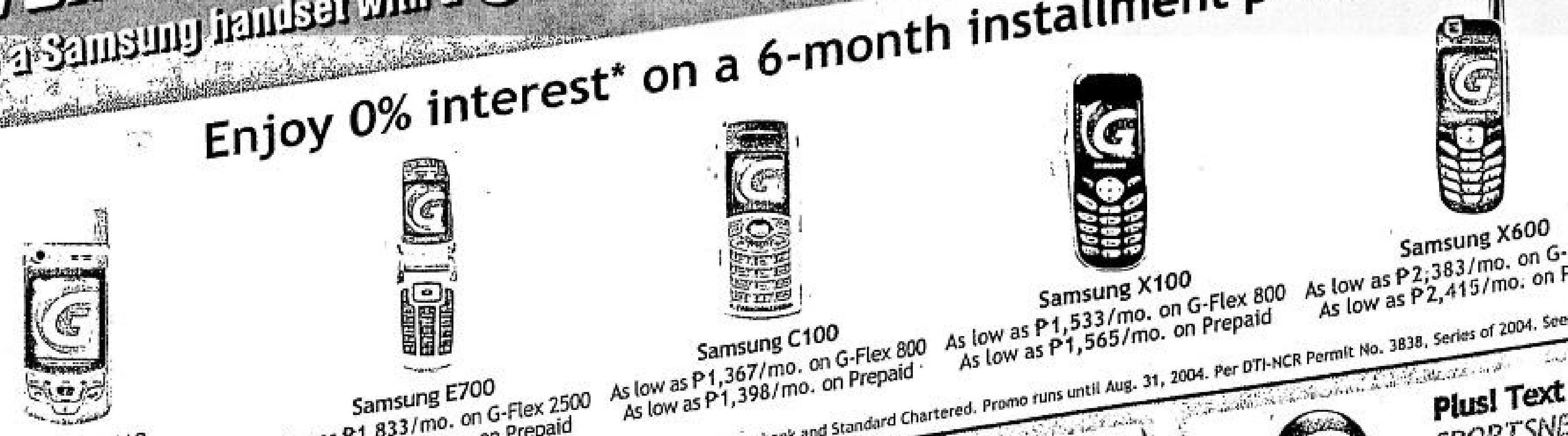

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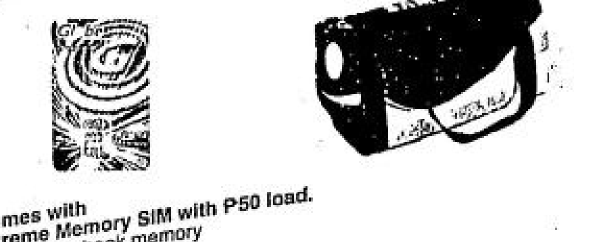

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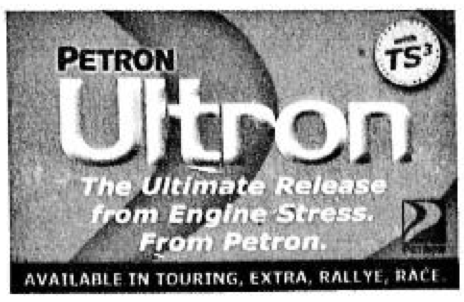
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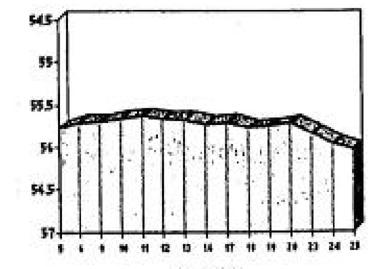

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 25, 2004

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 25, 2004

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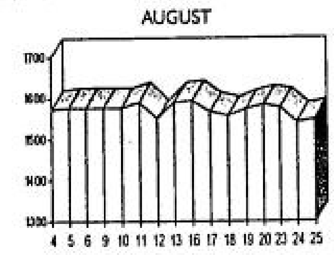
STOCK MARKET

Stocks up despite fiscal woes

STOCKS rose yesterday, led by power firm Meralco, but investors remained cautious even after economic officials played down the President's statement the country was in a fiscal crisis.

The main index finished 6.07 points or 0.39 percent higher at 1,548.08 points. Turnover dropped to P602.07 million from Tuesday's P630.8 million, while gainers beat losers 35 to 20 and 49 stocks were unchanged.

Reuters



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday slid back to 56:$1 level for the first time this month as concerns on the government's fragile fiscal situation continued to spook the markets.

The local currency closed at 56.045 at the Philippine Dealing System, down from Tuesday's finish of 55.975 to the dollar.

Value traded shrunk to $105.5 million from the previous day's $209 million. Trading at the spot market closed at 3 p.m., or earlier than the usual 4 p.m., as most offices shortened their working time due to unfavorable weather conditions.

"The market is just looking for an excuse to push the peso lower," a currency trader said.

Traders said President Arroyo's statement that the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis continued to weigh down the peso. As such, they said some traders were bracing for further peso weakness in the days ahead.

"The peso may be expected to continue falling and the dollar may test 56.10," said a trader with a local commercial bank.

Any correction back to the 55 level would likely be short-lived, the trader added.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said there was legitimate corporate demand for the greenback.

"The depreciation was due to dollar buying in anticipation of month-end corporate demand and continuing positive sentiment for the US dollar," Tetangco said.

"The easing of oil prices is seen positive for the US economy," he added.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice chair Cesar Virata, the president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said the market would await the government's initiatives to curb the budget deficit.

"This is a question of what you do now and not a question of additional statements. We have to pass all those measures that will reduce the deficit," Virata said.

The Philippines is holding its fourth annual international roadshow next month, ready to admit to the world it has fiscal problems but was striving to address them.

The government tapped HSBC Plc. as the global coordinator for Asia and Europe while Citigroup and JP Morgan would be the coordinators for the US leg of the roadshow.

The roadshow will begin on Sept. 20 and last till month's end, starting with Singapore, Hong Kong, London, Frankfurt, Zurich and Geneva in the first week, before moving to Boston and culminating in New York.

The roadshow will introduce four "economic imperatives" that are part and parcel of GMA's 10-point economic agenda:

- attaining macroeconomic stability anchored on fiscal consolidation;
- boosting investment, infrastructure and exports;
- restructuring and reforming the power sector, and
- restructuring the financial sector.

Zapanta resigns as PAL prexy

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines is scheduled to appoint a new president today after Avelino Zapanta, the flag carrier's head for more than five years, tendered his resignation.

Zapanta's resignation, according to sources, had been accepted by PAL owner and chief executive Lucio Tan.

Well-placed sources said the taipan was likely to appoint his trusted financial executive, Jaime Bautista, now president of Air Philippines Corp., PAL president.

Bautista, who was just appointed by Tan to head Air Philippines, is to be appointed as PAL's new president during the flag carrier's stockholders' meeting today.

ZAPANTA

Bautista was executive vice president and chief operating officer of PAL from late 1998 to early 1999. It was Zapanta, a

ZAPANTA/ B2

BIR readies audit of corporate taxpayers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue will begin auditing corporate taxpayers based on their presumed amount of income, a move aimed at plugging tax leakages coming from industries that are naturally hard to tax.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said in an interview that the revenue agency would conduct a study on how much income each industry group can earn. The presumed income of an industry will be used as a benchmark in auditing companies.

"If tax payments of a company fall below the benchmark, then there could be a delinquency. The BIR could then begin an investigation to determine whether the remitted amount of tax was appropriate," Henares said.

The BIR official said presumed incomes are usually only breakeven or a little above it, giving companies no reason to regularly remit tax payments lower than the benchmarks.

"Because one cannot stay long in a business if it is only losing money most of the time. If it is continually in operation, then it should at least be earning even a very small amount. Then that amount will be the basis of how much taxes a company should at least remit to the BIR," Henares explained.

Henares said the new auditing mechanism could best be used for industries whose accuracy of tax remittances are difficult to determine. She cited the maritime industry and taxi operators, both of which do not issue receipts to passengers.

The BIR official said this kind of auditing has already been implemented for motel operators, and that other businesses would soon be covered by the same auditing strategy. The use of presumptive taxation on motels had been proposed earlier because of the assumption that motel owners do not remit accurate taxes, considering that its clients do not usually ask for receipts.

The BIR has designated a staff to make a study on the business operations of each industry not only to determine its average income but also to learn tax-related issues or concerns that are peculiar to it.

"It is one thing the BIR should do, to know how each industry works, how they generate income, and how can the BIR properly impose taxes on and improve services to it," Henares said.

The use of presumptive incomes in auditing companies is part of the administrative measures of the BIR intended to increase revenue collection. The BIR, which accounts for about 80 percent of government revenue, is tasked to collect P477 billion this year, or 12 percent higher than its P425-billion collection last year.

Considering the country's serious fiscal problem, the BIR is hard-pressed to hit its collection goal. The national government's budget deficit stood at P199.9 billion last year, and it hopes to reduce it slightly to P197.8 billion by year's end, and to wipe it out by 2009 or 2010.

Aquino, Arroyo tried reforming tax system / B10

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FOR A BRIEF moment there, I was frightened. I really thought that we had a big problem over that mountain called our national debt. Whew! I'm glad I was wrong.

This cute administration of Gloriaetta just set the record straight. According to a Palace statement, the government can actually pay off its P4 trillion plus debts!

The claim is not really, well, ridiculous. There are about 80 million of us. We—all of us—actually owe that much money. Right away, you can see the obvious solution.

The P4-trillion plus national debt means that each of us, even without looking, is already in debt by some P50,000—every man, woman and child. Chicken!

All this cute administration must do is, well, it must get P50,000 from each of us and—voila—the debts are paid off just like that. No problemo.

Except, only about a hundred of us are willing to part with P50,000 each to pay off debts which we never owed. They are all in the mental institution.

* * *

REALLY, I don't think it is a question of whether or not, right at this moment, we can honestly claim that we can pay off our debts.

For lack of choice, I must believe this cute administration. We can pay off our debts. We just don't have the money right now.

We can pay off everything in one swoop. We must, er, amortize the entire thing. In other words, the debts are here to stay. Even death will not make us part.

At the moment, everything still hangs. Nobody knows if this cute administration, indeed, has the bal ... este, the guts, to tackle all the bullshit from Congress.

And that is the biggest argument why we can say, yes, Cerrona, we are already in the midst of a fiscal crisis! There's too much bullshit going on.

We have yet to see any sign of life from Congress that its members will support the tax program of this cute administration to prevent the crisis from ever happening.

Everybody is campaigning already for the next elections, including Gloriaetta and some members of her Cabinet.

To express support for Gloriaetta, some administration senators announced that they would give up 50 percent of their pork. But, bossing, why not the whole thing?

* * *

WE HAVE to do a lot of things to raise the money so that we can keep on paying our national debts. Things like, well, stopping all the bickering, okay!

We all know that this cute administration can raise the money to meet its debt payments. Only, other operations of the government must take the hit.

Debt payments take priority in the budget. What money it uses to pay off the debts, actually, must be taken from the budget for hospitals, schools, etc.

That's why this cute administration does not have all the money it needs to keep the government machinery running smoothly. That's why the roads are bad.

Heck, the government is still posting budget deficits left and right. This means that it is still incurring more debts which, the Palace bragged, it can still pay off!

And so it does not take a doctorate degree to conclude that we have a big problem over the national debt. It just keeps on going up. That is the crisis right there!

* * *

THAT warning from the academe about the forthcoming fiscal crisis, estimated to hit ground zero in two years, should only make us listen up.

For one, the International Monetary Fund has been calling our attention to it for the past couple of years.

Last year, for instance, it gave us three years to fix our public finances or else, the trend of fiscal deficits can become irreversible.

And the reason goes like this: One, we keep on incurring new debts to cover the deficit; two, the new debts add to the ever increasing debt service; three, we repeat the same thing every year.

The IMF line, in effect, warns us that the time will come when the debt service will become so big not even the entire tax collection will be enough to cover for it.

Such a scenario, according to the IMF, will become a reality in three years if we do not shape up right away. I thought it was a fair warning.

* * *

COOLY, the economic team of this cute administration must do some damage control after Gloriaetta's bold statement on the fiscal problem, calling it a "crisis."

Still, it does not take a doctorate degree to conclude that we cannot go on meeting like this at the toilet of Richmonde Hotel, este, no ... I mean, the government cannot go on denying there is a crisis because, as of now, it is just a likelihood of a crisis.

We never really seriously paid attention to the fiscal problem. Look, during the time of Kuya Eddie, the budget deficit problem was contained, because they sold everything on sight, including the kitchen sink.

Today, with the property and stock markets still depressed, this cute administration does not have the same opportunity. It must depend on new tax measures. The lawmakers are fighting the tax measures. This, I think, is why we are in a crisis.

The financial market knew about the problem long ago. That's why we have a nervous market. It points to only one thing, and that is, confidence is low.

* * *

IN the political scene, there are things that do not exactly build up confidence.

For one, it seems to be payback time for Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, chair and CEO of San Miguel, which is only the biggest private business in the country. Well, outside the "text" business, of course.

Some groups who are supposedly close to this cute administration are said to be behind the move to implicate Danding in the murder of Ninoy Aquino.

That happened 21 years ago. The case is making a big comeback in media because somebody has made a claim that Danding allegedly was the mastermind.

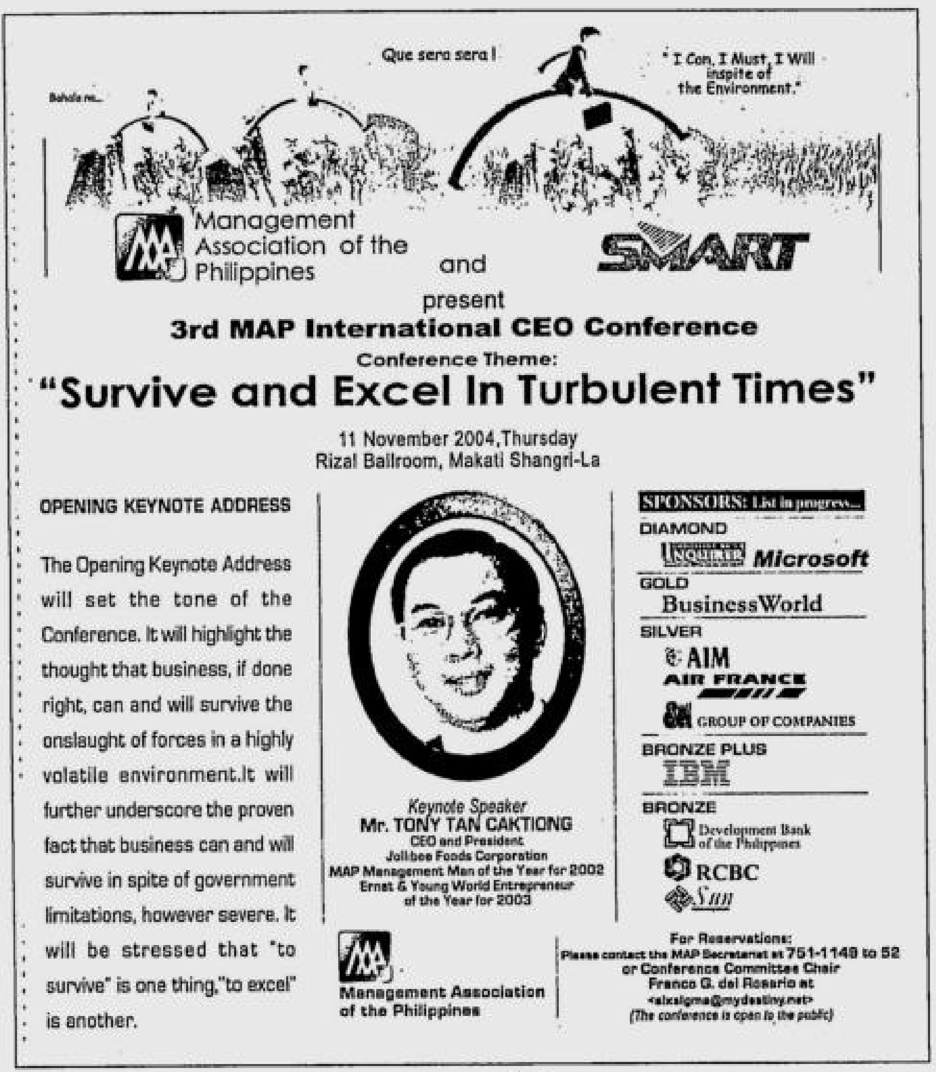
How did the new star witness know that? Well, according to him, Danding told him in person that Danding was responsible for the murder.

In other words, Danding committed a heinous crime, and then he went around telling every Tom, Dick and Alex about it—and they were not even his father-confessors.

But even among his people, Danding is not known to be given to boasting about anything. What more, about bad things he has done?

But San Miguel is doing all right, as it keeps on breaking its profit records every year, or even every quarter. Some groups must be after the business.

Methinks it does not bode well for building up confidence.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(The conference is open to the public)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
AYALA CORPORATION
(Registrant)
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 11 August 2004, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of AYALA CORPORATION for the registration of P 5 Billion worth of bonds due five (5) years and one (1) day from date of issue, to be offered at par value.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	POSITION
Jaime Zobel de Ayala	Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II	Co-Vice Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee
Fernando Zobel de Ayala	Co-Vice Chairman
Aristón Estrada, Jr.	Director
Mercedita S. Nolledo	Director
Masakazu Okabayashi	Director
Meneleo J. Carlos, Jr.	Director

CORPORATE OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS	POSITION
Jaime Zobel de Ayala	Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II	Co-Vice Chairman of the Board/Executive Committee/ President and Chief Executive Officer
Fernando Zobel de Ayala	Co-Vice Chairman of the Board/Executive Managing Director
Aristón Estrada, Jr.	Senior Managing Director and Adviser to the Chairman
Mercedita S. Nolledo	Senior Managing Director and Corporate Secretary
Delfin L. Lazaro	Treasurer & Chief Finance Officer/Senior Managing Director
Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr.	Senior Managing Director
Francisco H. Licuanan III	Senior Managing Director
Xavier P. Loinaz	Senior Managing Director
Antonino T. Aquino	Managing Director
Jaime I. Ayala	Managing Director
Charles H. Cosgrove	Managing Director
Arthur R. Tan	Managing Director
Rufino Luis T. Manotok	Managing Director and Corporate Information Officer
Renato O. Marzan	Managing Director, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Compliance Officer
Ramon G. Opulencia	Managing Director and Senior Assistant Treasurer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) **Ma. Gracia F. Casals**
Officer-in-Charge
Corporation & Finance Department

RCBC to rid more NPLs worth ₱11B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. plans to unload more of its non-performing loans worth at least P10 billion, using the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

Rizalino Navarro, RCBC chair, yesterday said that the bank would work out more deals with the Lehman Brothers to sort out the remaining bad loans in its books.

Navarro yesterday signed a P3.9-billion NPL sale agreement with the same investment bank.

"In the days and weeks leading to the signing, the people from RCBC and Lehman Brothers have been working tirelessly to iron out kinks and finalize the (agreement)," Navarro said. "RCBC would be looking forward to more SPV transactions."

The bank is trying to beat the September deadline and is rushing to set up the SPVs.

The process, where RCBC will set up shell companies, is similar to the route taken by other banks, Navarro said.

The shell companies will hold the NPLs to be sold, allowing banks to buy time to arrange deals with potential buyers. Once a buyout deal is finalized, they will divest their stake in the shell companies.

Francisco Magsajo Jr., RCBC president, said a bank could set up as many SPVs as it needed in preparation for future buyout deals.

However, setting up more than what is needed would be costly since the shell companies have to be capitalized at P31 million each, Magsajo added.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 25, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	1,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40	40.5	40	40.5	134,700
China Banking Corp.	540	540	540	540	20
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41	66,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	240,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25.5	25	25.5	197,800
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	2,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.75	169,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	175	175	175	175	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	2225	2225	2225	2225	200
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	261,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1515	1525	1515	1525	1,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	11,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	1,000,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	840	835	835	81,170
Ipeople Inc.	1.4	1.46	1.4	1.4	64,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.42	2.48	2.38	2.48	17,171,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1255	1260	1245	1250	76,460
Ivantage Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.67	1,780,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	9,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.75	15	42,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23	23.5	22.75	23	1,412,700
Petron Corp.	2.4	2.46	2.4	2.46	2,657,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	250,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.05	4.05	4	4.05	1,286,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	180,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	310,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.78	21,515,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	251,400
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	30,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	51,500
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69	69	69	13,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,410,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	6,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	13,158,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	11,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.14	143,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	37,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.15	310,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25	25.5	25	25.5	58,600
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	4,560,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	390,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,850,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.86	1.7	1.86	14,487,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.5	25	24.5	24.75	262,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.07	1,100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.34	2,764,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	998,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.3	78,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	162,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	28,680,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	370,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22	3,550,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	560,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.4	30,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.68	4,490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	750,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20	20	562,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	2,702,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	450,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,660,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.92	4,560,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	3,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	19,610,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	48,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.215	0.215	5,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	8,460,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	200,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	357,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	65,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	460,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	142,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	28,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	3	2.7	3	104,000

Bancommerce income up 30%

BANK of Commerce posted a 30-percent increase in net income before provisions for the first seven months of the year. Net income before provisions increased to P498.9 million in July 2004, up 30 percent from the same period last year.

Net interest income grew 54.8 percent to P952 million in the first seven months of 2004. The growth was driven by higher funding levels and an expansion in discretionary investment portfolios of high-yield sovereign debt especially at the FCDU.

These factors were partially offset by the impact of lower non-interest income, which decreased 14.3 percent to P635 million mostly on account of reduced peso fixed income trading opportunities resulting from the rising interest rate scenario.

Zapanta resigns . . .

From page B1

marketing executive, who was permanently appointed by Tan in 1999 to head PAL.

Zapanta, according to sources, had tendered his resignation last year but it was only recently that Tan finally accepted it.

Zapanta was senior vice president for sales and services of PAL before he was appointed president in 1999. Zapanta had resigned in February 1999 when PAL hired key executives from Cathay Pacific, which formed Regent Star Services, to run the flag carrier.

Zapanta didn't like the prospect of the flag carrier being run by foreigners.

Tan terminated what would have been a five-year contract with Regent Star, recalled Zapanta and appointed him president in April 1999.

Zapanta's term saw PAL's recovery in 2000 only to be held up again by a series of negative events starting from the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in 2001 followed by the tensions caused by the US-Iraq war and the SARS scare last year.

CURRENCIES

August 25, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.827404	1.000000	55.9300
Japan	Yen	0.007551	0.009126	0.5104
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483038	1.792400	100.2489
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106081	0.128210	7.1708
Switzerland	Franc	0.650270	0.785916	43.9563
Canada	Dollar	0.633492	0.765638	42.8221
Singapore	Dollar	0.483184	0.583976	32.6618
Australia	Dollar	0.585648	0.707814	39.5880
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.194821	2.652661	148.3633
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220635	0.266600	14.9143
Brunei	Dollar	0.481777	0.582276	32.5667
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019961	0.024125	1.3493
UAE	Dirham	0.225272	0.272264	15.2277
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.208600	67.5970
Argentina	Peso	0.275801	0.333333	18.6433
Brazil	Real	0.280285	0.338753	18.9465
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.162485	9.0878
India	Rupee	0.017882	0.021612	1.2088
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217767	0.263193	14.7204
Mexico	New Peso	0.072790	0.087974	4.9204
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541282	0.654193	36.5890
Norway	Kroner	0.120453	0.145579	8.1422
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014120	0.017065	0.9544
South Africa	Rand	0.123654	0.149448	8.3586
Korea	Won	0.000717	0.000867	0.0485
Sweden	Kroner	0.109082	0.131837	7.3736
Syria	Pound	0.022901	0.027678	1.5480
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024321	0.029394	1.6440
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000432	0.000522	0.0292

Taguig LGU hosts business summit

TAGUIG Mayor Freddie R. Tiñga's administration will hold the "First Taguig Business Conference" to strengthen the local government's ties with the business sector and come up with a workable business development plan for the municipality.

Since 2001, the local government's efforts to improve the conditions in Taguig as part of its long-term objective of developing its potentials as a prime investment destination in Metro Manila have yielded encouraging results.

The "First Taguig Business Conference" was initiated by the Tiñga administration to sustain these efforts by making the stakeholders themselves, the business sector in particular, play an increasingly major role as a "partner in development" of the municipal government.

The summit, to be held tomorrow at the newly renovated municipal hall, will be facilitated by Prof. Jose Jesus F. Roces of the Asian Institute of Management.

Tiñga said he envisioned that this kind of forum would open the gates for investors to be participative in their relationship with the local government, that they would also be involved in the problem-solving.

"Be in my shoes, I'll be in yours as well. We hope that through this business conference, the business sector and the local government will not only co-exist but cooperate for the development of Taguig," Tiñga said.

Investors in Taguig have been invited to take part in the event. Roces will give an overview on a competitiveness study of various cities.

Employers adopt action plan to save, create jobs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines announced that it had adopted an action plan to help preserve and create jobs as well as push entrepreneurship to help displaced workers amid the long-running unemployment problem in the country.

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano said the group's agenda of reforms listed employers' initiatives to help in alleviating poverty and lowering the unemployment rate, which has remained to be one of the highest in Asia.

He said Ecop was concerned about the low capacity of the economy to create jobs for all Filipinos, but that it was optimistic that the country would recover.

Soriano said that Ecop members, during a summit held early this week, agreed to adopt the action plan to help achieve the government's target of creating 10 million jobs in the next six years:

The plan involves cooperation between the government and private sector and is geared to achieve the following in the medium term:

- drafting of a competitiveness program for the nation under globalization;
- promulgation of measures to address the fiscal crisis of the nation;.
- resolution of policy impasse on difficult labor issues;
- reforms of the education and technical-vocational sector, and
- development of a national savings and capital mobilization program.

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500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	7.50
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.25	7.50	8.00
5 million and up	7.25	7.50	8.25

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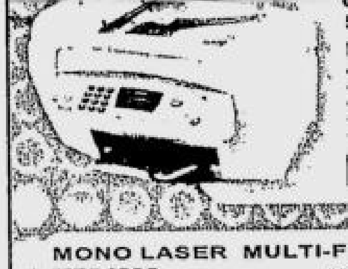

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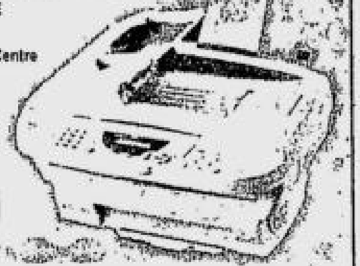

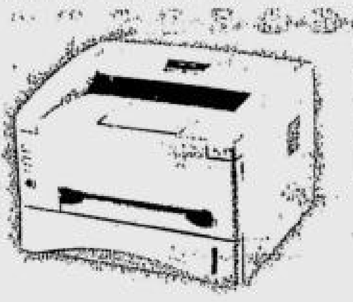

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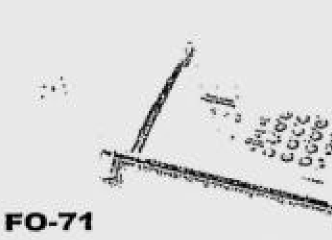

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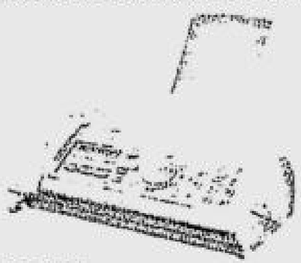

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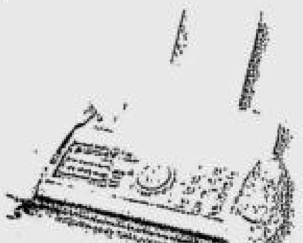

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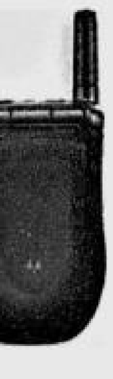

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the month of FEBRUARY & MARCH 2004 on SEPT. 16, 2004 at 8:30am. J. Lanuza Auctioneer.
(PDI - Aug. 26, 2004)

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PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA) is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the sale or lease of eleven (11) lots on a serviced land basis, located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

1. Properties for sale or lease

BLK	LOT		AREA[1](m^2)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE
A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		whole	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1] Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders
   Sale: Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.
   Lease: Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check starting 12 August until 8 September 2004 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
4. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates Bid and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 22 September 2004 on or before 1:00 PM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 1:30 PM, of the same day.
5. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone number 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7103 to 7104 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) **TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI--Aug. 11, 16, 21, 26, Sept. 2 & 6, 2004)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar St. cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 526-01-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2004-207	250,000 LANDBANK T-Shirt	P 15,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on September 22, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on September 9, 2004, 10:00 AM at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI--Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2004)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Michelle B. Cal** is no longer connected with Philips Electronics & Lighting, Inc. Any transaction made by her in the name of Philips shall be deemed made without authority and shall not be honored.

(PDI--Aug. 26, 2004)

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Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue, cor. EDSA,
Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Website: www.poea.org.ph E-mail info@poea.org.ph
Hotlines 722-1144; 722-1155

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 12

Series of 2004

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE CERTIFICATION OF OVERSEAS PERFORMING ARTISTS

In the interest of the service and pursuant to DOLE Department Order No. 67-04, Series of 2004, on the system of certification of Overseas Performing Artists (OPA), the following guidelines are hereby issued:

I. Issuance of Artist Accreditation Card.

General Policies

1. Artist Accreditation Card. The Artist Record Book (ARB) shall be replaced by the Artist Accreditation Card (AAC).
2. The AAC shall be used in securing an entry permit, as may be required by the host country.
3. Issuance of AAC. The AAC shall be issued to an individual or group of artists who passed the auditions in singing or dancing. Only OPAs with valid booking confirmation shall qualify for audition. AACs shall also be issued to Novelty Act Performers (NAP) upon presentation of Certificate of Competency in accordance with the TESDA-approved Training Regulations.
4. Testimonial Artist Accreditation Card. The Card shall be issued to seasoned, professional and/or popular artists with outstanding track record of local or overseas performance of at least one year in major performance venues such as five star hotels, first class and well known clubs, theaters, television shows and movies. They shall also include those who represent the country in international competitions or in a show of prestigious nature, without prejudice to the submission and verification of supplemental documents to validate applicants' performer status.
5. Validity of AAC. The Card shall be valid for ten (10) years. Expired ARBs shall be replaced with the AAC with a validity period of ten (10) years upon presentation of a valid booking confirmation.
6. Fees. An administrative fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) shall be charged per OPA, payable upon application for AAC issuance. In addition, the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) shall be charged per OPA for the issuance of the Artist Accreditation Card.
7. Enrollment of users' IDs and Passwords. Under the revised computerized AAC issuance system, all accredited agencies shall be provided with new users' identification and password.

II. Procedures for the Issuance of Artist Accreditation Card

1. Applications for audition schedule shall be uploaded to the computerized AAC issuance system by the accredited agency. Uploaded data shall include applicant's passport size picture (1.5 x 1.5 inches), left and right thumb marks, and accurate information on the applicants:
   - a. Name
   - b. Address
   - c. Date of Birth
   - d. Place of Birth
   - e. Height (meter)
   - f. Weight (kilos)
   - g. Sex
   - h. Civil Status
   - i. Category
   - j. Name of employer

   The artist must be photographed in performance make-up, without earrings, hair pulled back, and in white background.

   The accredited agency shall be solely and completely responsible for the accuracy and veracity of uploaded information.

   The administrative fee shall be paid upon verification by the POEA of request and presentation of original copy of booking confirmation.
2. Audition Scheduling. Generation of audition schedule shall be computerized and made available to respective end users through the AAC website within two days from application for audition.
3. Cancellation of Audition Schedule. Applicants who are unable to audition on the scheduled date shall be required to inform the POEA at least one (1) day before the scheduled audition of the cancellation. Cancellation shall only be allowed once.
4. Rescheduling of Audition. Request for re-scheduling due to the applicant's failure to appear on the scheduled date of audition shall be uploaded by the accredited agency.
5. Retake. Request for retake of audition shall be uploaded by the accredited agency. An applicant shall be allowed to retake audition up to three (3) times only within a period of three (3) months. Subsequent request for retake shall only be allowed after a lapse of six (6) months from the last audition.
6. Testimonial AAC. Application for issuance of testimonial AAC shall be submitted to the POEA, together with the following supporting documents:
   - a. Duly filled up info sheet
   - b. Booking Confirmation or Contract of Engagement
   - c. Employment record
   - d. Record/cassette covers of singers, if any
   - e. Newspaper and magazine clippings/reviews of the artist's performance, if any
   - f. Performance portfolio
   - g. Other documents as may be required

   Applications for exemption from the minimum age requirement for issuance of testimonial AAC's shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Labor and Employment for appropriate action.
7. Renewal of AAC. Application for renewal of expired ARB/AAC shall be uploaded to the POEA with the following data:
   - a. Name
   - b. Address
   - c. Date of Birth
   - d. Place of Birth
   - e. Height (meter)
   - f. Weight (kilos)
   - g. Sex
   - h. Civil Status
   - i. Category
   - j. Passport size picture (1.5 x 1.5 inches)
   - k. Right & Left thumb marks
   - l. Name of employer

   The original copies of the Booking Confirmation and expired ARB/AAC shall be presented to the POEA.
8. Replacement. Application for replacement shall only be allowed for lost ARBs/AACs or those requiring amendments / corrections to data entries. The same procedure / requirement in the application for renewal shall apply. For lost ARB/AAC, the OPA shall also be required to submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss; for amendment due to change of status or erroneous name or date of birth, the NSO authenticated marriage contract, birth certificate and such other appropriate documents that POEA will require.

III. CONDUCT OF AUDITION

A. General Policies

1. The audition shall involve the exhibition of individual performance. Showbands / musicians shall audition as a group.
2. The private industry sector shall deploy an observer to all testing venues during the audition. The observer is tasked to observe, record / take down notes of all the activities and proceedings during the conduct of the audition for the industry sector's file.
3. The audition venue shall provide a place for viewing during the audition where the observer can clearly observe the audition.
4. POEA shall monitor audition venues at random to check on compliance to policies and procedures.

B. Procedures for Audition

1. Registration of OPAs for audition shall start at 8 am and audition shall start promptly at 10 am. Registration starts with the scanning of the thumbmarks of the OPA. The OPA shall be automatically registered only upon confirmation of the thumbmarks.

   Confirmation of the OPA's thumbmarks shall trigger the opening of the on-line info sheet/profile of the OPAs assigned in the venue. The testing venue officer shall verify from the OPA the data contained in the uploaded info sheet to further confirm the database.
2. If the thumbmarks do not match, the OPA shall not be registered and auditioned.
3. The OPA shall start and end her performance with thumbmark confirmation at the fingerprint scanner located at the audition area. The OPA's name and photo, as uploaded, shall also be projected in a screen in the audition area.
4. The testing officers shall upload to the Computerized AAC Issuance system their rating of the OPA immediately after every performance. The rating shall also be viewed on the screen in the audition area for the information of the OPAs, testing venue and observers.
5. A copy of the audition result, duly signed by the testing officer, OPA, testing venue and private industry sector observer shall be provided to all parties for record purposes, immediately after the audition.
6. Audition venues are required to maintain a video record of all audition proceedings which shall be made available at any time upon demand by POEA.
7. There shall be no refund of administrative fees for applicants who fail to show up on the day of the audition.

IV. STANDARDS FOR AUDITION

A. General Policies

1. Three testing officers shall be assigned per testing venue for every audition session.
2. A rating system of pass or fail shall be adopted, in which the OPA should obtain at least two passing marks inorder to pass the audition.

B. Standards for Singers

1. Singers shall be assessed individually through two songs. The OPA shall submit 5 song titles to the testing officers from which the two songs shall be selected.
2. Criteria for passing :
   - a. Music Aptitude
   - b. Voice Technique
   - c. Diction
   - d. Repertoire
   - e. Stage Deportment

C. Standards for Dancers

1. Dancers shall be assessed individually through a dance production showcase which shall be for a minimum of 5 minutes. The group shall be a minimum of two members and maximum of seven members, all of whom are auditioning. No back-up dancers shall be allowed.
2. The dance production showcase shall contain the following elements:
   - a. Content
   - b. Use of space
   - c. Musicality
   - d. Stage presence
3. The concept, choreography and costume shall not be graded. Dancers may wear the traditional dance rehearsal (tights, leotard and jazz shoes) for contemporary and jazz and appropriate costume for cultural, ethnic, broadway and popular dance.

V. ACCREDITATION OF AUDITION CENTERS AND TESTING OFFICERS

A. General Policies

1. Existing TESDA-accredited testing venues and testing officers shall be recognized by POEA and shall be allowed to continue to conduct the auditions for overseas performing artists (OPAs) until POEA has come up with a new accreditation system.
2. The POEA-recognized testing venues and testing officers shall be continually evaluated based on performance and capability.
3. POEA shall suspend or cancel the recognition / accreditation of testing venues and testing officers if the said entities do not comply with POEA regulations.
4. The private industry sector composed of industry participants shall serve in an advisory capacity in the accreditation of testing venues and testing officers.

B. Standards for Audition Centers

1. The audition center shall provide a minimum space of 20 square meters for audition venues for singers and 86 square meters for dancers. The area shall be exclusive of space for office, reception, separate dressing rooms and rest rooms for male and female OPAs.
2. Facilities and Equipments. The Audition Center shall maintain among others 2 fingerprint scanners, reliable internet service, CD/VCD camera, LCD projector and a minimum of 2 computers to facilitate the verification of OPAs and for immediate uploading of audition results to the POEA.

C. Standards for Testing Officers

1. Testing Officers shall come from the academe, professional dancers/ singers and / or reputable members of the industry.
2. Must have integrity and good moral character.
3. A recognized musician/performer in his/her field.

VI. Penalties.

1. The AAC shall be cancelled at any time during its validity period if found to have been secured through forgery, falsification, misrepresentation, deceit or any fraudulent means.
2. Any fraudulent use of the AAC shall be subject to the penalties as provided for in the existing POEA rules and regulations.

All issuances inconsistent with this Memorandum Circular are hereby amended accordingly.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Administrator

25 August 2004

(PDI–August 26, 2004)

'Kasal Bikolnon' goes WOW

"KASAL Bikolnon", a unique fashion show featuring "pinukpok" (abaca silk), will highlight the grand opening of "Gayon Bicol Fiesta II" on Sept. 4, at WOW Philippines, Intramuros, Manila. Prominent Bicolanos, such as LGU officials and government agency heads, as well as ordinary people, like employees, students and even children, were invited to model "pinukpok" attires. This is intended to kindle awareness of, interest in and pride among Bicolanos for the "pinukpok", a little known fabric, which material and production skills are indigenous to Bicol.

Today, the "pinukpok" being used for this fashion show no longer undergoes the tedious pounding. The product of the Banquerohan Resettlement Site and Neighborhood Association (BRSNA) of Legazpi City, it is softened by a mechanical rotary press provided by the Poverty Free Zone (PFZ) Program of the DOLE-Bicol. The BRSNA, whose members are evacuees from the wrath of Mt. Mayon, is the chosen PFZ beneficiary-community.

"Kasal Bikolnon" showcases the collections of five (5) Bicolano designers who call themselves the "Albay Designers Guild" – Ambette Alberto, Klang Arispe, Ailene Briobo, Philip Barja and Willi de Legazpi. The five designers committed to support the fashion show with their designs and labor costs free of charge.

The Department of Tourism (DOT), the Regional Development Council – V (RDC), and the Regional Executives and Directors Association (REDIRAS) have joined hands to sponsor the "Kasal Bikolnon" Fashion Show in support of the poverty alleviation program of President Arroyo, which is being implemented by the Department of Labor and Employment, thru its Poverty Free Zone (PFZ) Program.

---

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POEA
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CCP Outreach celebrates its silver year

2004 is the silver year of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Outreach & Exchange Program and to commemorate the momentous occasion, a series of events dubbed as "Pilak: 25 more years of catalyzing regional cultural development" will be implemented in strategic sites all over the country.

As part of the CCP's 35th anniversary this year, the CCP's Outreach Program celebration will include the national tour of Magno Rubio, a play on Filipino migrants in the United States, slated on Aug. 24/Sept. 9-Oct. 5 at FEU-Manila, Baguio, Cebu, Roxas, Sigma, and Bukidnon.

On Sept. 8, a multi-media traveling exhibition focusing on the 25-year accomplishments of the CCP Outreach will be formally launched at the CCP Little Theater Lobby, which will also be mounted in the regions from October 2004 to 2005.

On Sept. 11 at CCP, selected artists, individuals and organizations who have given outstanding contributions to CCP's regional cultural programs will be recognized at the Parangal para sa Serbisyong Pangkultura, Sining at Komunidad. A regional artists and cultural workers forum called Saliwan will also be held in Koronadal City (Sept. 29), Cagayan de Oro (Oct. 9), Iloilo City (Nov. 27) and Bulacan (Dec. 11).

A commemorative book entitled Lakbay Sining: an anthology of artistic initiatives and community cultural work in the Philippines will be published and launched in December. The main highlight of the celebration is a grand production dubbed as Pinilakang Sining ng Bagong Henerasyon, slated at the Koronadal City Sports & Cultural Center South Cotabato on Oct. 1, Capitol University Gymnatorium, Cagayan de Oro City (Oct. 8 to 9), Central Philippine University Auditorium in Iloilo City (Nov. 26), and at the KB Gym in Malolos, Bulacan (Dec. 10).

The regional events are made possible with the kind support from the City Government of Koronadal, Samahang Pangkultura at Sining ng Koronadal, Capitol University, Mindulani Inc., Iloilo Arts Council and the Provincial Government of Bulacan. For more information, call the CCP Outreach and Exchange Division at 8323674 (telefax), 833-0267 (tel.), 8321125 loc. 1708-1710 or e-mail at outreach@culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

Department Order No. 67-04

Series of 2004

TO : ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT : SYSTEM OF CERTIFICATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS PERFORMING ARTISTS

In the interest of the service and pursuant to the President's directive to further streamline the bureaucracy, the following guidelines shall govern the deployment of qualified Overseas Performing Artists.

1. All Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs) must possess duly-issued Artists Record Book (ARB) as a requirement for overseas employment.
2. The ARB shall be issued by the POEA after the OPAs have passed the audition to assess their talents and performance in singing or dancing as an individual or as a group.
3. A Novelty Act Performer shall be issued an ARB upon presentation of a Certificate of Competency, in accordance with the TESDA-approved Training Regulations.
4. Only OPAs with Booking Confirmation shall be qualified to audition, to prevent the proliferation of ARBs, which is an employment document.
5. Existing TESDA-Accredited Testing Venues and Testing Officers to be recognized by POEA shall conduct the auditions.
6. An OPA may choose to apply for an ARB without undergoing any formal training. They can however, undertake formal training to further hone their talent and enhance their chances of passing the audition.
7. The audition shall involve the exhibition of individual performance. In case of dancers, musicians and novelty performers, the same shall likewise involve the ability to perform in a group.
8. The audition centers shall submit the list of OPAs who "passed" the audition to POEA after the conduct of the audition. Within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the list, the POEA shall issued the corresponding ARB.
9. POEA shall facilitate the issuance of testimonial ARB to outstanding, seasoned, professional and/or popular recording artist including those who represent the country in international competitions, without prejudice to verification and/or submission of supplemental documents such as press releases, announcements, posters and artists' folio, if necessary.
10. Any request for exemption from audition received from outstanding and popular performing artists with short-term engagements shall be submitted to the Office of the POEA Administrator for the issuance of the testimonial ARB.
11. The POEA shall not entertain requests for exemption from minimum age requirement for OPAs engaged under a booking contract or covered by a working visa. The Secretary of Labor and Employment or her authorized representative, may however, extend assistance to facilitate any underaged performing artists who are accompanied by guardians to represent the country in international competition or in a show of prestigious nature.
12. ARBs issued by POEA shall have an effectivity period of ten (10) years. Upon expiration of TESDA-issued ARBs, the same shall be renewed by POEA with a validity period of ten years. However, the ARB of an artist who fails to secure a booking contract within the last three years of the ten-year validity period will be placed in the POEA inactive list.
13. The ARB shall be used in securing an entry permit as may be required by the host country.
14. The ARB can be cancelled if found to have been secured through forgery, falsification, misrepresentation, deceit or any fraudulent means.
15. POEA is authorized to remain/revise the ARB and its format to further simplify the system.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is hereby directed to issue guidelines to implement this Order.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall supersede all issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Order.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Secretary

(PDI - Aug 26 2004)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The National Food Authority, Region 6, with its office at Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City invites all interested buyers to participate in the auction for the total of 209,730.03 Lkg Raw Sugar at the indicative price of P780.00/Lkg located at different sugar centrals in Negros Occidental:

PROVINCE	SUGAR CENTRAL	Quantity in Lkg
Negros Occ.	VMC	123,062.01
	LOPEZ	66,224.14
	FFHC	20,433.88
	TOTAL	209,730.03

The sale shall be on a "Per Mill" basis.

All interested buyers are required to post a bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's / Cashier's Check payable to NFA. A pre-auction conference will be conducted before the auction proper.

Interested buyers shall submit the following documents to the Bidding Committee during the pre-auction conference:

1. Original and one (1) Certified photo copy of sugar trading license/ registration.
2. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the single proprietor or Board Resolution from the Secretary/Chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official / employee/stockholder and is authorized to represent in the auction and all activities pertinent therein.

The auction shall be conducted at the NFA – Iloilo Regional Office on the following schedule:

Venue of Pre-Auction Conference And Auction Proper – Conference Room, 2nd Floor NFA, Iloilo Regional Office Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Pre-Auction Conference – August 30, 2004, 10:00 A.M.
Auction Proper – Right after Pre-Auction Conference

Bidding documents and tender forms can be secured at NFA Iloilo Regional Office after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00, starting August 25 to 27, 2004, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the National Food Authority.

For more details, please contact RBAC Chairperson or Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan at Telephone Nos. (033) 320-62-46 and 329-21-65.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
RBAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 25 & 26, 2004)

CCP marks 35th anniversary

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines turns 35 this Sept. 8. To celebrate this milestone, the CCP has lined up several activities, beginning with the annual thank-you lunch for the CCP's media friends. During the luncheon, billed "A-Press-Ciation," the CCP will announce the winning entry to the "Name the CCP Building". The new CCP chimes will also be launched during press luncheon. The CCP chimes are sounded in the CCP theaters and venues as a signal to audiences that a performance is about to start. The music for the new CCP chimes is taken from "Prelude Ethnica" by National Artist Lucrecia R. Kasilag and arranged for guitar quartet by Jose Valdez. The Kasilag Guitar Quarter will perform. DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman will open the Pilak Multi-media exhibit at 5 p.m. at the CCP Bulwagang Carlos V. Francisco (Little Theater Lobby). The Pilak exhibit celebrates the 25th year of the CCP Outreach Division, and will highlight the work of the CCP in the regions. A main highlight of the CCP's 35th anniversary is the Gawad CCP Para Sa Sining Awards ceremonies at 7 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. The special award, the Tanging Parangal ng CCP award, will also be given. There will also be exhibits on the Gawad CCP Para sa Sining and on the history of the CCP at the Main Theater Lobby and 2nd Floor Hallway, respectively. Since its founding, the CCP has sought to truly embody its logo of truth, beauty and goodness. Its mission-vision today is to nurture and promote artistic excellence, Filipino aesthetics and identity, and cultural values towards a humanistic global society.

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers of Water Meters to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO NO.	UNITS	DESCRIPTION
7472	3000	Water Meter , multi-jet; Class B; 1/2o; "Arad" Brand or equivalent. Approved Budget Cost: P 4,050,000.00

Interested Licensed Suppliers may obtain *Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications* at the BAC Secretariat, 2/F ZCWD Main Bldg., Pilar Street, Zamboanga City upon payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P 500.00. Issuance on Bid documents will be on August 19 to September 2, 2004 only. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue any bid documents.

Suppliers must submit the following documents for eligibility check on or before ***September 3, 2004****, to qualify for bidding:*

A. Legal Documents

5. A copy of the Department of Trade & Industry Certificate of Registration of Business Name or Security & Exchange Commission Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
6. Valid and Current mayor's Permit/Municipal license for the year 2004.
7. Taxpayer's Identification Number
8. Statement from Bidder that is not "Blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the consolidated Blacklisted Report issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of IRRA-A, R.A. 9184

B. Technical Documents

2. Statement of the prospective bidder of all its on-going and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:
   a. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement include, for each contract, the following:

      The Name of the Contract;
      Date of Contract;
      Amount of Contract and Value of Outstanding Contract;
      Date of Contract Started;
      End User's Acceptance, if completed; and
      Specification Method;
      Prospective bidder is a manufacturer, supplier or distributor; or

   b. Similar or not in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid

C. Financial Documents

3. The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, the prospective bidder's total and current Assets and Liabilities; as of the year 2003, or the latest BIR stamped Financial Statement.
4. The prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC), which shall be accordance with Section 23.11 of IRR-A, RA 9184 or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Other Documents

3. Letter of commitment of the prospective bidder to participate in the bidding
4. The Prospective Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall certify under oath that each of the documents submitted is an original copy of a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.

Pre-bid Conference : September 2, 2004
2:00 PM AT THE 2/F ZCWD MAIN BLDG.,
PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY

Submission of Bids : September 14, 2004
2:00 PM AT THE 2/F, ZCWD MAIN BLDG.,
PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY

The ZCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informalities in the bid received and to award the contract to the supplier whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC 1, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC 1 Chairman

(PDI-August 26, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PSD 04-08-23

The Department of Education through the Bids and Awards Committee is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 3,500 boxes of Tabulating Stock Forms, 5 ply, size – 11" x 14 7/8", graylines with both sides perforation, 70 gsm for the 1st sheet and 56 gsm for the 2nd to 5th sheets. The approved budget for the supply and delivery shall be P2,362,500.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting **August 26 – September 10, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 2, 2004**, 2:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **September 14, 2004** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI-Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS
Quezon City

August 18, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

1. **Name of Project : Freight Forwarding/Shipping Services**
   Location of the Project : BIR National Office
   Approved Budget : P 375,000.00
   Contract Duration : October 1 – December 31, 2004
   Source of Funding : BIR's Appropriations

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **August 20, 2004**, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).**

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **Sept. 2, 2004** at **9:00 a.m.** at the **6th Floor, Procurement Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **September 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **6th Floor, Procurement Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) post-qualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-55-47, 926-55-38 and 928-20-26 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until September 14, 2004.

(Sgd.) MILAGROS V. REGALADO
Assistant Commisioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 26, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax : 631-96-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Bids and Awards Committee is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

Package	Description	Approved Budget
1	• Printing, Packaging and Labeling of PEPT Test Booklets • Delivery of Test Booklets, Answer Sheets and Non-Classified Materials • Retrieval of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets	P 3,000,000.00
2	Printing and Delivery of Non-Classified Materials	P 100,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting **August 26 – September 10, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 2, 2004, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **September 14, 2004** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

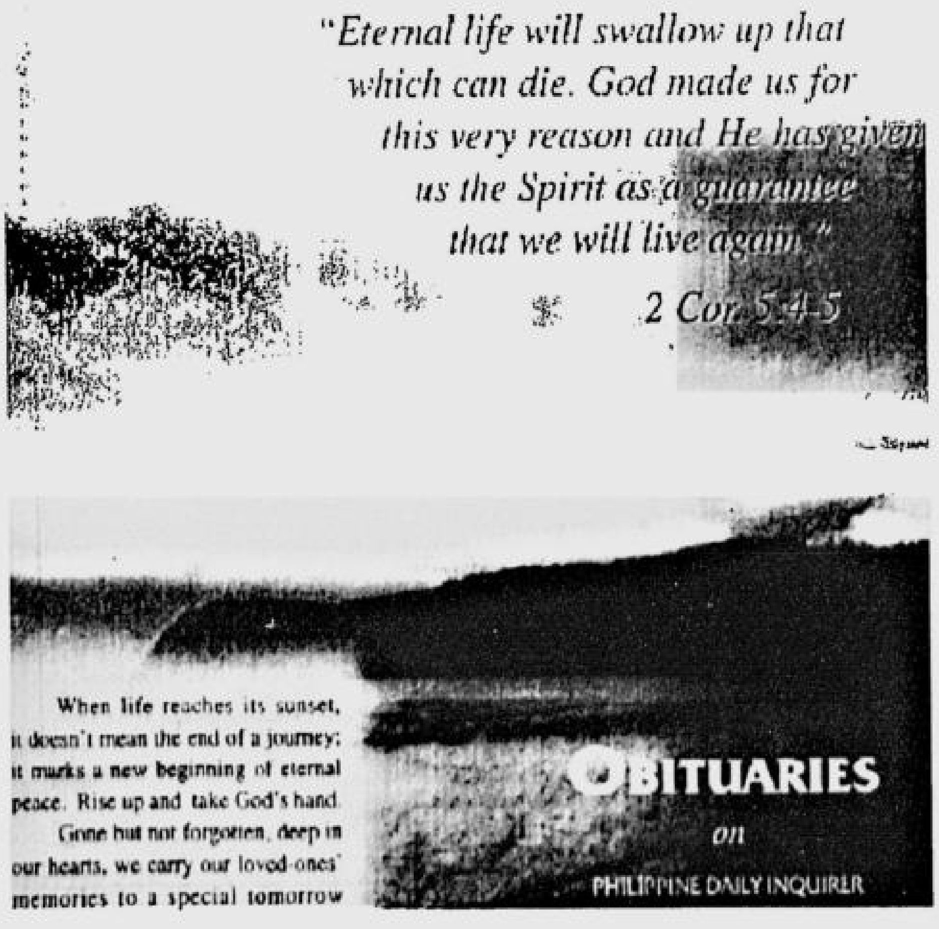
This is to inform the public that **PRETICHAGE MANPOWER SERVICES INC.** with principal office at 3rd Floor R&S Perez Bldg. #46 D. Silang St. Batangas City a land-based Recruitment Agency with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has its new names of the members of the Board of Directors / Officers.

The company's Board of Directors / Officers are as follows:

Name	Position
Charley M. Velasco	President & Chairman of the Board
Margarita C. Velasco	Vice-President / Board Member
Aldine M. Hidalgo	Corporate Treasurer / Board Member
Rustica C. Mabiling	Board Member
Rowena M. Dayao	Corporate Secretary / Board Member

(PDI-August 26, 2004)

OBITUARIES


"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow

OBITUARIES on PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want..."

APOLINAR MERCADO CORTES

of Minalin, Pampanga

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 23, 2004 at the age of 87.

His loving wife **Angelina**; children with his first wife **Felipa** (†) and their spouses **Walter** and **Baby**, **Marcy** and **Lily**, **Emil** and **Deng**, **Ernie**, **Adrian** and **Loie**, **Gil** and **Carrie**, **Noy** and **Myrna**; sisters **Trinidad** (†) and **Presentacion**; brothers **Marcelino** (†), **Godofredo** (†), **Domingo**, **Augusto** (†) and **Roman**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; grandchildren **Wesley**, **Walt John**, **Marly** and **Dory**, **Milette** and **Arwin**, **Cheng**, **Yeng**, **Alexis**, **Patrick**, **Jan**, **Noemi**, **Kay**, **Kristine**, **Criselle** and **Gerard**; great grandchildren **Paopao** and **Luanne**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Chapels, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 28, after the 3:30 p.m. Mass
at the Remedios Chapel, Good Shepherd Memorial Park.

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 80 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

In Memory of the First Death Anniversary

REYNALDO "RENE" S. CONCEPCION, SR.

Died August 26, 2003

Holy Masses will be offered on Thursday, 26th of August 2004 in the following:

• Sto. Niño de Paz	Greenbelt Chapel	7:15 am
• St. John Bosco	Makati City	7:30 am
• LPCI Head Office	Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc. Bldg., Makati City	12:00 noon
• Santuario de San Antonio	Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 am, 7:30 am , 12:15 pm
• Capilla San Francisco	Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 pm
• Days Hotel Head Office	Rufino Bldg., Makati City	10:30 am
• Days Hotel - Batangas	Batangas City	9:00 am
• Days Hotel - Tagaytay	Tagaytay City	2:00 pm
• Days Hotel - Cebu	Mactan, Cebu	2:00 pm
• Days Hotel - Subic	Subic Bay Port	10:00 am
• Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage	Antipolo City	6:00 pm

We, his wife Jesusa, sons, daughter, brothers, sister and in-laws, request readers, and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. Loyola Memorial Chapels Inc. Loyola Memorial Park Loyola Crematory Services, Inc. Days Hotel Hertz Rental Car

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I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the children, grandchildren
and great grandchildren of the late

Cecilia Borja Santiago

February 1, 1917 – August 17, 2004

wish to express our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation to our relatives and friends in Manila, Cabanatuan City, and United States of America for sharing consoling words thru personal calls, e-mails and text messages; sending beautiful flowers, selfless gifts, and mass offerings, attending the masses and funeral rites; and for simply being there.

In our moment of mourning, you have all helped us remember and celebrate the life of our beloved Mama.

SEVEN YEARS AGO TODAY

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. TITUS C. VILLANUEVA, JR.

January 20, 1964 - August 26, 1997

*was called by the Lord to start a new life
in heaven and so we again commemorate today
that new life.*

We, his loving wife **Nancy Grace**; children **Titus III, Marius Paul, Bianca Grace**; parents **Titus Sr.** and **Teresita**; brothers, sisters and spouses **Linus** and **Ritchie**, **Marcus** and **Ana**, **Remus**, **Zeus** and **Celia**, **Anna Tessa**, **Ma. Vanessa** and **Rookie**, nephews and nieces would like to thank other relatives and friends who blessed him with love and prayers and who continue to keep his memory close to their hearts.

*"There the Lord has lavished blessings,
life forevermore"*

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ENGR. WILLIAM J. TAN, JR.

*who peacefully joined our Creator
on August 17, 2004*

wish to express our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of you, our friends, who offered prayers, masses, sent flowers, mass cards, letters/messages of sympathy, donations, spent precious time with us, and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

RIZALINO M. ESGUERRA

was called home to the Lord
on August 22, 2004 at the age of 66.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife **Miriam**; children **Robert, Edward, Charmaine, Angellie & Christian**; grandchildren **Roanne, RJ, Rizza Mae, Benok, Denise, Enoch, Cyrah & Pupu**.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 28, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Globe Kababayan first to bring Share-A-Load to OFWs in Japan

TO DATE there are over 240,000 Filipinos living and working in Japan, mostly as factory or construction workers, or as service personnel in hotels and restaurants. For most of them, life in Japan is a fairly pleasant experience. However, no matter how rewarding life in Japan may be, nothing beats a text message or a familiar voice from home to help ease the feeling of homesickness.

Globe understands the importance of constant communication between Filipino workers in Japan and their loved ones back home. And for that reason, Globe Kababayan - Mobile Services for the OFWs in partnership with Advent, recently launched another major breakthrough service called Share A Load for the benefit of the OFWs.

Having firmly established itself as a popular way of sending over-the-air prepaid load credits to Globe Prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers in the Philippines, Share-A-Load, winner of "The Most Innovative" service at the recent Asian MobileNews Awards in Singapore, is now also available to our kababayans in Japan.

Using a Japan mobile phone (popularly known as "keitai" in Japan) and Advent's Access Plus Card, one of the leading international rechargeable phone cards in Japan, Share-A-Load now empowers our fellow Filipinos to transfer prepaid load from Japan directly to Globe Prepaid or Touch Mobile phones of relatives and friends in the Philippines in just a few clicks. Such load transfer feature may be enjoyed through keitai postpaid subscription with any of the following Japanese mobile phone operators: DoComo, Vodafone, Tuka, AU or Ezweb.

Share-A-Load is another service innovation brought to OFWs by Globe Kababayan, a new campaign which provides OFWs with mobile services that allow them to keep in touch with their families. "With Globe's Share-A-Load in Japan, OFWs there can ensure their relatives here will always have load, even without having to send them remittance to subsidize the load, or buying the traditional call and text scratch card," according to Alan Supnet, Globe head of overseas mobile services.

Share-A-Load via Access Plus cards is a fast, convenient and secure way for OFWs in Japan to send prepaid phone credits directly to phones of family and friends in the Philippines. It is available in P150, P300, P500 and P1,000 load denominations with their corresponding Japanese Yen equivalent for hassle-free conversion.

The service is initially offered in Japan, but soon, Filipinos living or working in other parts of the world will be able to stay well-connected with loved ones back home, through the convenience of Globe's innovative Share-A-load service.

ROTARY CLUB TAGUIG WEST

ROTARY CLUB OF TAGUIG WEST HOLDS INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Rotary Club of Taguig West of Rotary International District 3830 held an induction ceremony for its officers and directors for Rotary Year 2004-2005 last July 22, at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City. The officers, headed by: president Hans Schmid; president-elect Ronnie Javier; secretary Kirby Lorenzo; treasurer Ana Cawaling; auditor Philip Batallones; past president and sgt-at-arms Jess Melencion; immediate past president Mario P. Chan; and, directors Philip Usabal, Ed Ocampo, and Leila Patiño, was sworn into office by district governor Tony Quila. The RI theme for this year is 'Celebrate Rotary' in observance of the 100 years of Rotary service worldwide.

UP OFFICIALS CUT RIBBON OF RENOVATED BETA EPSILON WAY

UP president Francisco Nemenzo, UP Diliman chancellor Emerlita Roman and UP Diliman vice chancellor for Student Affairs Tessa Jasmines cut the ribbon to the newly renovated Beta Epsilon Way. They are witnessed by the members of the Beta Epsilon Fraternity who is celebrating its 75th year of existence. This is part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration with the theme UP Beta Epsilon Fraternity@75 Years, 1929-2004 Beyond Engineering: Brotherhood and Excellence! After the successful kick-off activity by sponsoring the fireworks of the UP Lantern Parade, plans are underway for the grand celebration. The festivities will include the dedication of the Beta Epsilon Fraternity structures (Beta Epsilon Way - AS side, Beta Epsilon Theatrum, Beta Epsilon Gate and eBeta Epsilon Way - Internet facility) , family sportsfest, grand fellowship stag, open tambayan, and Grand Fraternity Ball. As a climax, the Beta Epsilon Fraternity will have the traditional Grand Ball to honor the Fraternity Sweetheart, past and present to be held at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City on Aug. 28. For details, please call brod Stein Macabulos at 0917-811-5633 or email to bernie.abis@findme.com.ph also check out www.betaepsilon.net

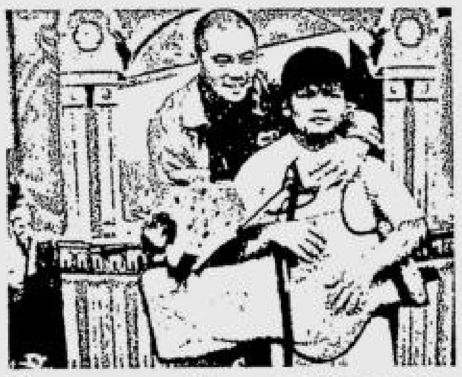
Bits Clips

Tasting the good life at Ayala Greenfield Estates

AYALA Greenfield Estates opens its doors to visitors who want to experience the good life at the exclusive residential development. A special day-long open house will be held on Aug. 29, allowing guests to sample the distinct pleasures that make Ayala Greenfield Estates such a desirable place to live in. Guests and homeowners can mingle and join each other in enjoying the lifestyle of the only authentic golf and leisure development in the country. Unique to this open house is an opportunity for the participants to sample a variety of delectable main dishes and desserts in the food fest. Aside from this, they can look forward to sampling Ayala Greenfield Estates' different play-conducive facilities. For further details call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Sogo Home & Office Center celebrates 14th year

SOGO Home & Office Center marks its 14th anniversary this month. As part of the celebration, Sogo offers its promo "P14 @ 14th Year!", wherein customers can avail of very useful items for just P14 each with minimum buys of small appliances, electronics, houseware and furniture varieties. Zero percent interest offers on major appliances are also available in stores throughout the month. Shop now and celebrate Sogo's 14th anniversary! For details, visit their branches at Glorietta 1, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Metro-East, Filinvest Alabang, AliMall, Tutuban Centermall and Zabarte Town Center or you may call 912-6602/912-6604.



Monsour at the mall for Milo

MONSOUR del Rosario became the ambassador of goodwill for Milo at Shopwise Cubao last Aug. 7. He posed with fans and signed autographs on Milo 40th Anniversary Champions Limited edition products. The visit is part of the Milo 40th Anniversary Champions Mall Tour. The next tours will be on Aug. 28 and 29 at SM Megamall and SM Manila.

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

7TH FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS,
CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS 817-4711 • 817-4712 • 817-4713
817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE APPRAISAL OF VARIOUS REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)

The PEA is inviting appraisers to submit Letter of Intent for the bidding of the Fair Market Value appraisal of its various real estate properties located within Metro Manila particularly described as follows:

PROPERTY 1 : A parcel of land particularly identified as the Promenade within the Central Business Park I Island A located at Pasay City with an area of approximately 99,248 square meters, more or less.

PROPERTY 2 : A real estate property consisting of three (3) reclaimed islands located at Parañaque City

PROPERTY 3 : A real estate property consisting of nine (9) parcels of land within the R-1 Landstrip located at Parañaque and Las Piñas City.

PROPERTY 4 : A parcel of land with an area of about 134,798 square meters, more or less, located within the Central Business Park I Islands B&C, Parañaque City.

PROPERTY 5 : A real estate property containing an area of approximately 1 hectare, more or less, located within Central Business Park II, Parañaque City.

PROPERTY 6 : A real estate property known as the Parañaque Fisherman's Wharf (PFW) and Manukan located at Barangay La Huerta, Parañaque City.

PROPERTY 7 : A real estate property located at the landstrip between the Philippine Councilors League Building and Waste Transfer Station at Barangay Aldana, Las Piñas City.

PROPERTY 8 : The eight (8) condominium units located at the top three (3) floors of Legaspi Towers 200 and currently being occupied as the corporate offices of the Public Estates Authority located at Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Interested parties may acquire application forms for eligibility from the Secretariat of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), 8th floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, upon submission of a Letter of Intent and application fee of P100.00, from August 27 – September 17, 2004.

Detailed evaluation of the bids of the qualified short-listed appraisal companies shall be based on Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection Procedure and subject to post-qualification in accordance with RA 9184 and its IRR. The Three (3) Highest Rated Responsive Bidders shall each be awarded the contract. Contract duration is thirty (30) working days, reckoned from the date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

Bid documents shall be issued only to the shortlisted eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00). Bids shall be submitted in a sealed expandable envelope labeled with the name of the contract to be bid and the name of the bidder, containing the two sealed envelopes marked as ENVELOPE 1 – TECHNICAL PROPOSAL and ENVELOPE 2 – FINANCIAL PROPOSAL, also with the name of the contract to be bid and the name of the bidder. Deadline for submission of bids will be on November 10, 2004, 10:00 a.m., PEA wall clock time, at the 7th floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Opening of bids will follow fifteen (15) minutes thereafter.

The PEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by BAC is the most advantageous to the government.

For any query, the BAC Secretariat may be reached at telephone numbers 817-47-11 to 13.

(Sgd.) ARMINDA A. ALARAS
Chairman – BAC

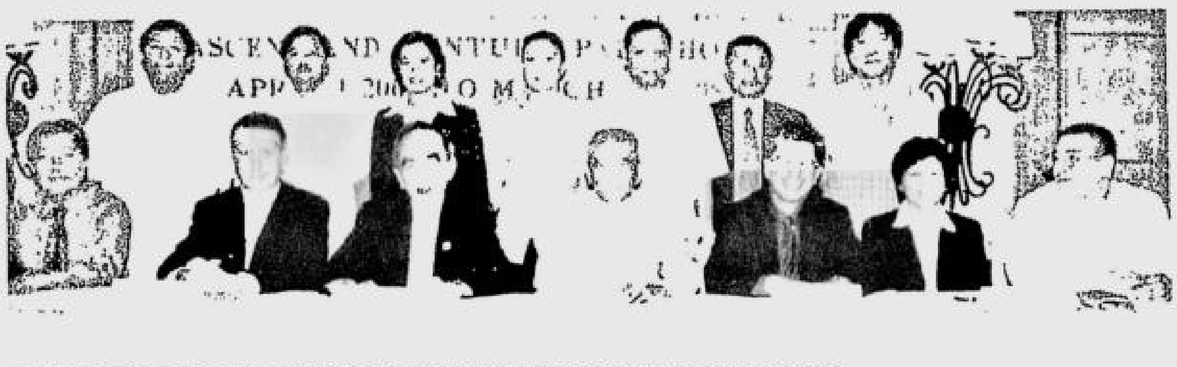
Approved:

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager & CEO

(PDI - Aug 26, 2004)

INQUIRER HOSTS LUNCH FOR CHINESE AMBASSADOR

The Philippine Daily Inquirer recently hosted a lunch for Chinese ambassador Wu Hongbo (seated, center). Also in photo are Inquirer board chair Marixi R. Prieto (seated, second from right), Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (seated, far right), Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot (standing, third from right), Inquirer board member Charlie Rufino (seated, first from left), members of the Inquirer editorial group and members of the Chinese delegation.



CENTURY PARK HOTEL SIGNS CBA WITH SUPERVISORS' UNION

The Century Park Hotel Manila and its supervisors' union - Association of Supervisors at Century Park Hotel (Ascent) recently signed their Collective Bargaining Agreement in simple ceremonies held at the Corregidor Room of the hotel. In photo (seated, from left) Henerino Brondial, legal counsel of Ascent; Paul Gill, general manager of CPH; Julio Tan, executive vice president; Ben Erfe, financial consultant; lawyer Antonio Fontanilla, hotel consultant; Yollie Dimayuga, rooms division manager and Danny Sy, assistant comptroller; (standing, from left) union officials Robin Regalado, president; Rene Manguerra, treasurer; Rowena Verzosa, secretary; Regina Sandoval, PRO; Richielu Cortes, vice president; Catalino Arengo, assistant treasurer and Jose Badilla, auditor.

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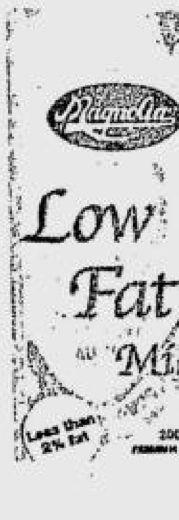

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Hosts are **Jerry Go** with **Nelly Jean and Tiffany del Rosario.** Keynote speaker is **DTI Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.** *SEC Chairman* **Lilia R. Bautista** will be represented by **Director Romeo O. Dauag**

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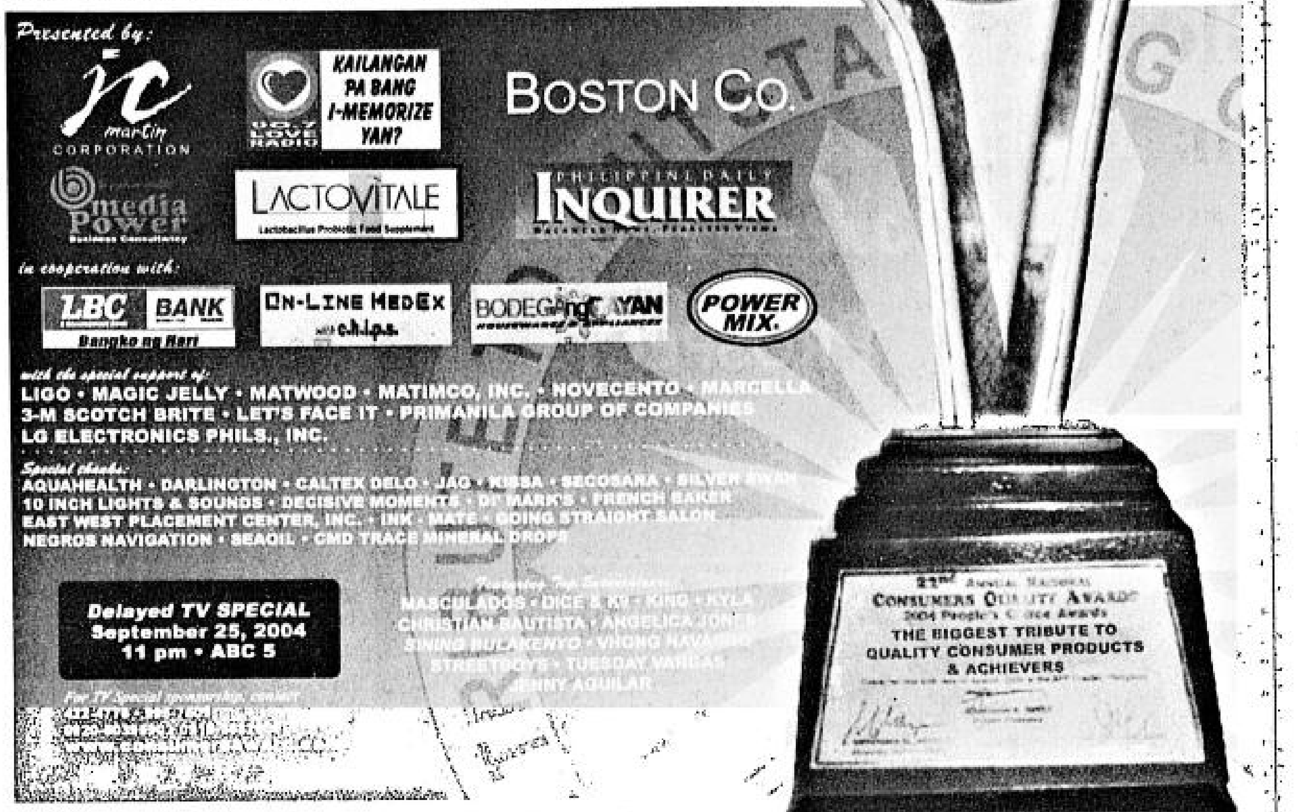
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• Branding: Uplifting Philippine Products (FOOTWEAR)
2:50-3:40 • Networking / Afternoon Cocktails / Chorale Serenade
3:40-5:00 • Opportunities and Risks in FINANCING Fashion
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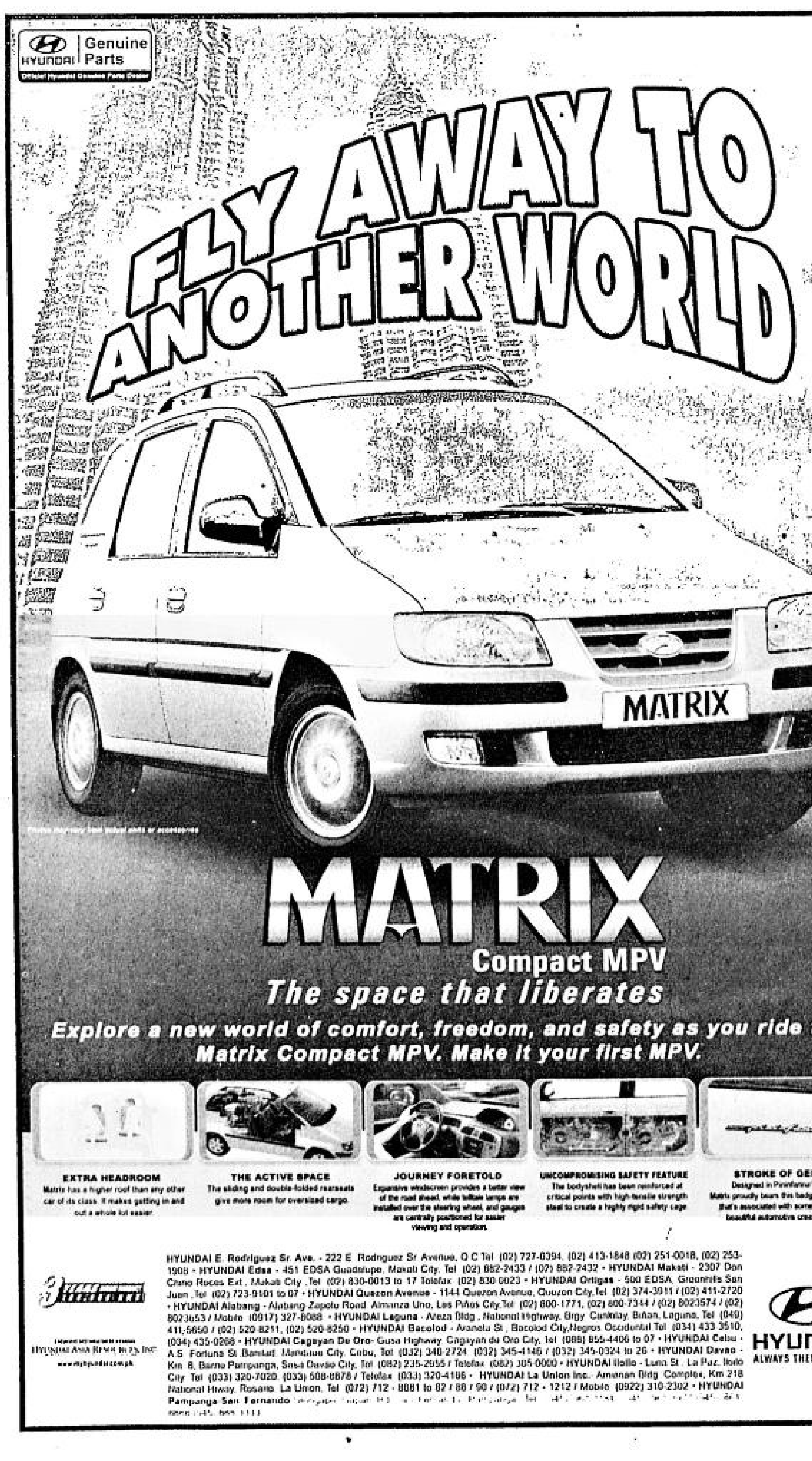
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COMMENTARY

Aquino, Arroyo tried reforming tax system

By Rene G. Bañez

(Third of four parts)

AFTER the People Power Revolution in February 1986, government pursued a renewed thrust towards an effective tax administration.

"Operation: Walang Lagay" was launched to promote the efficient and honest collection of taxes.

From Jan. 1, 1986 to Sept. 30, 1989, 61 tax measures composed of presidential decrees, executive orders and other forms of legislation were issued or enacted.

In 1986, a package of tax measures dubbed the Tax Reform Package (TRP) was designed to complement the economic recovery program of the new government.

Tax reform measures were guided by the following general policy considerations: improving elasticity of the tax system; ensuring that similarly-situated individuals and entities bear the same tax burden; withdrawing or modifying taxes that impair incentives to production, and to improve tax administration.

Domestic investment

Reforms in direct taxation, particularly the overhaul of the income tax system, were primarily anchored on promoting domestic investment, equity, and administrative simplicity without necessarily impairing the revenue-generating capacity of the income tax system.

The TRP introduced the 35 percent single tax for corporations.

In 1988, the Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced and replaced the complicated sales tax structure.

The adoption of the VAT system was one of the structural reforms provided for in the 1986 TRP, which was designed to simplify tax administration and make the tax system more equitable. It was meant to be revenue-neutral.

To ensure that the tax system remains progressive, additional excise tax was imposed on luxury or non-essential items.

Small businesses were also accorded preferential tax treatment under the VAT regime.

Reforms in tax administration, characterized by changes in the various organizational, functional, operational and procedural aspects of the tax administration bureau, were also implemented.

Compared to the tax collection figures under the Marcos administration, the share of direct taxes to total tax revenues from 1983 to 1985 displayed an increasing trend from 26 percent to 35 percent of total tax revenues. The high share of direct taxes in 1985 can be explained by the high interest rates that prevailed at the time, resulting in higher collections from interest income.

However, from 1986 to 1988, the share of direct taxes declined from 33 percent in 1986 to 31 percent in 1988.

In 1989, the Tax Administration Program, which is the embodiment of the government's mission to improve tax collection and simplify tax administration, was adopted.

The program contained several tax reforms and enhancement measures, which included the use of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and the adoption of the New Payment Control System and Simplified Net Income Taxation Scheme (SNITS).

It is also worthy to stress that measures contained in the 1986 TRP were not implemented, including ceilings on allowable deductions.

Ramos administration

To attain the government's vision of transformation, a comprehensive and integrated program known as the ACTS or Action-Centered Transformation Program was undertaken in 1993 to realign and direct the entire organization towards the fulfillment of its vision and mission.

A five-year Tax Computerization Project (TCP) was undertaken in 1994, which involved the establishment of a modern and computerized Integrated Tax System and Internal Administration System.

On May 5, 1994, RA 7716, otherwise known as the "Expanded VAT (EVAT) Law," was approved.

In 1995, the government drafted the Comprehensive Tax Reform Package (CTRP) to raise at least P10 billion annually, by removing opportunities for tax evasion and simplifying tax administration and compliance.

Two of the components of the CTRP-restructuring tax on the downstream oil industry and the shift from ad valorem to specific tax on "sin" products-were enacted into law in 1996.

Both laws shifted excise tax calculation from the ad valorem system (which calls for tax to be computed on the basis of the factory price) to the specific system (where tax is based on the volume of products sold).

By fixing specific tax rates per unit of a product, manufacturers cannot reduce tax liability by selling their products at low factory prices to distribution companies that could be owned by the manufacturers themselves.

In addition to bills restructuring excise taxes, the 1996 legislation further amended the expanded value-added tax (E-VAT).

RA 8241, otherwise known as the "Improved VAT Law," made remedial amendments to some provisions of RA 7716.

The law likewise exempted at least nine more types of transactions from coverage of the E-VAT law passed in 1994 to make the VAT more acceptable to the public.

The individual and corporate income tax component of the CTRP was finally enacted into law after months of fierce Congressional debates.

RA 8424, otherwise known as "Tax Reform Act of 1997" is the final component of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Package.

The law took effect Jan. 1, 1998, simplifying the income tax system to encourage compliance and strengthen the capacity of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to prosecute tax fraud and tax evasion cases.

It likewise raised the amount of exemption of the taxable income for fixed income earners.

The law introduced, among others, the 2 percent minimum corporate income tax, the 10 percent tax on improperly accumulated earnings and Fringe Benefits Tax on fringe benefits received by non-rank and file employees.

Estrada administration

One of the most significant reform measures in 1998 was the implementation of the Economic Recovery Assistance Payment (Erap) program, which granted immunity from audit and investigation to taxpayers who have paid 20 percent more than the tax paid in 1997 for income tax, VAT and/or percentage taxes.

The most significant of the tax measures in 2000 include: full utilization of tax computerization in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's operations; expansion of the use of electronic Documentary Stamp Tax metering machine and establishment of tie-up with the national government agencies and local government units for the prompt remittance of withholding taxes; and implementation of Compromise Settlement Program for taxpayers with outstanding accounts receivable and disputed assessments with the BIR.

On Sept. 1, 2000, the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) and the Excise Taxpayers Service (ETS) were established under EO No. 175 to reinforce the tax administration and enforcement capabilities of the BIR.

Arroyo administration

The BIR's transformation program was introduced in 2001.

The program was meant to reconstitute the tax administration agency as an efficient, accountable, de-politicized and effective institution.

However, House Bills 5054, creating the Internal Revenue Management Authority or IRMA, and 5465, establishing the National Authority for Revenue Administration (NARA), though identified as priority bills by the government, remain pending at the House of Representatives.

Since it cannot be denied that the gains from reforming the tax agency may be reaped only in the medium term, the program was complemented by measures to enhance the BIR's revenue-generating capability, which included the implementation of the Voluntary Assessment Program and Compromise Settlement Program and expansion of coverage/scope of the creditable withholding tax system.

The BIR, in its mission to provide an efficient and convenient service to the taxpayers, introduced the "substituted filing of returns." At the start of the tax year in 2002, substituted filing of individual income tax returns became mandatory for all qualified employees. Substituted filing is applicable when the employer's annual return of withholding tax on compensation and final tax (BIR Form 1604CF) may be considered as the "substitute" income tax return of the employee in as much as the information provided in his/her Certificate of Income Tax Withheld (BIR Form 2316) would be exactly the same information contained in Form 1604CF.

Following the discovery of tax payment diversion scams, the BIR introduced the electronic broadcasting system, which allows taxpayers to confirm the receipt by the BIR of their tax payments made through authorized agent banks.

In 2003, the measure exempting several services from the coverage of the VAT lapsed, making it enforceable for medical services rendered by doctors of medicine duly registered with the PRC and services rendered by lawyers duly registered with the IBP.

The re-imposition of the Gross Receipts Tax on Banks and Non Bank Financial Intermediaries also lapsed into law (RA No. 9238) without the signature of the President in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution.

The rationalization of Documentary Stamp Tax bill was enacted as Republic Act No. 9243 to support the development of the domestic capital market. The law took effect on March 20, 2004.

(To be continued)

The author, a former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, delivered this paper at the Ateneo Law School, where he is a professor of tax law.

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E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
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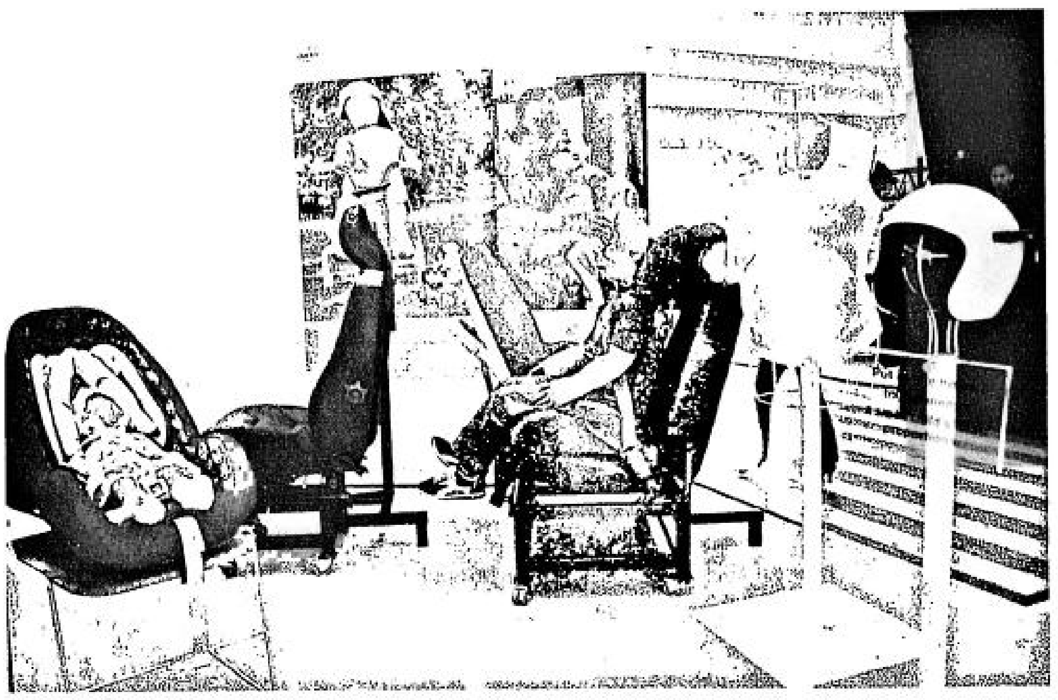

CHILD safety seats

THE "EMPATHY belly"

GRÖNVALL demonstrates the proper way of installing child safety seats.

Dummies that save lives

For us to survive a car accident these 'idiots' have to take it head on

THE PROPER way to fasten a child safety belt

By Tessa R. Salazar

JON JON is 6 years old. He weighs 22 kg and sits in the middle rear portion of a car. The car is running at 30 kph when it collides head-on with a metal wall.

Jon Jon is thrown off the backseat, flies forward head first and shatters the windshield.

This "accident" was witnessed by hundreds of people, including this writer. Afterward, the witnesses stood in silence, contemplating on the implications of such an accident actually happening to themselves and their loved ones. As Jon Jon lay motionless beside the shattered windshield, accident investigators explain to us the force of Jon Jon's body in a 30-kph head-on collision: Jon Jon would be flying through the car at nearly 70 km per hour. And when Jon Jon collided with the dashboard and windshield, it was as if he was hit by a 1,500-kg object.

Crash-test dummy

Fortunately for all of us, Jon Jon was just a crash-test dummy used to demonstrate the forces acting on an unbelted 6-year-old child involved in a low-speed collision. Volvo's research and crash analysis engineers were recently in the Philippines for a series of vehicle safety seminars for parents and children at Viking Cars Inc. on Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati.

A dummy like Jon Jon, or Maria—the equivalent of a 3-year-old Caucasian female—costs upward of $30,000.

An adult crash-test dummy would cost more than $100,000. These dummies are equipped with sensors in the head, chest and neck so engineers can measure the forces of an impact in these specific parts. In every crash test, numerous wires and cables are attached to the dummy.

And there are as varied crash-test dummies as there are real people. Newborn, pregnant women and large male dummies were shown during the seminar. Volvo "employs" hundreds of crash-test dummies, and they are calibrated on a regular basis for them to be measured correctly in every test. And they have the most unenviable job in the world, meeting potentially deadly collision from every conceivable angle.

Rear-facing child seats

Maria demonstrated in one crash test how her head was stretched forward so severely it proved fatal. This particular test demonstrated the need for rear-facing child seats.

"Never think it would be okay for the child because he or she sits in the rear. They can't hold off a 1,500-kg force. So never put a child on your lap. It's dangerous," said crash analysis engineer Birgitta Trommler.

Trommler emphasized that children are not adults. She said a newborn's head weighs nearly half of his or her whole body weight. The head of a 9-month-old baby, for instance, accounts for 25 percent of its total body weight. The head of a 3-year-old accounts for 18 percent of its total body weight; for a 6-year-old, 16 percent. A male adult's head is only 6 percent of his body weight.

"A crash puts a tremendous strain on anyone's neck, so this is one reason it's important to support the neck of a newborn baby," stressed Trommler.

The baby's pelvic bone is also not fully developed until he or she is about 12 years old. For this reason, seatbelts should be worn over the pelvic bone.

For overall safety, newborns and children 3 to 4 years old should sit on rear-facing seats. Auto manufacturers, especially, should provide rear facing child seats to provide support to the child's head, neck and spine. This type of seat helps spread the forces of a crash to prevent excessive flexion, extension and traction movements that may result in the child's permanent neurological disability or death.

Flexion injury

Experts said flexion injury occurs in a crash when the child's body is stopped by the car seat harness and the head snaps forward and down. The forceful flexion of the neck can lead to fractures of the vertebrae.

The overextension of the neck also causes injury. If the child's head hits the back of the front seat, the head stops but the body and the lower neck continue forward and down. This tears the ligaments in the front and can fracture the vertebrae. The spinal cord can be pinched and injured.

Accident research center

Swedish John Fredrik Grönvall, Volvo's senior research engineer for safety, is also responsible for building the Thailand Accident Research Center.

He said the center can be replicated in the country. Said Grönvall: "In case we're invited by the Philippine government, we can replicate the center here. The center in Bangkok is a first (in Asia). The idea is replicate it in other countries as well. I think the problem (of vehicular accidents) in the Philippines is as big as it is in Thailand."

Giveaway project

"We just opened last year and we have an actual team that goes out to the accident sites to collect

DUMMIES/ C2

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Isuzu promo and the new Cefiro; Toyota No. 1 anew

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IN THESE times when prices of gasoline and other by-products of the so-called "black gold" rise faster than the floodwaters in Manila at the slightest of downpours, it is hard to justify the toll increase at the North Luzon Expressway. People will always be angry when they are saddled with financial woes. Logic suddenly becomes Greek to them. For definitely, the increase in fees (it's now P41 from Balintawak to Sta. Ines for cars) will hit motorists where it hurts most: the pocket. Prices of food and all, the principle of the stomach is the hardest to topple.

I guess one guy knowledgeable enough with the ways of the world—mind you he's a Filipino very much loved by Brother Eddie—has said it best: "Never try to justify a move that directly hits the budget of the working man."

My advice is, just keep them coming. There will be more criticisms than you will ever think, my dear Marlene. So, hold your horses, please? This isn't the time to talk. A mob will never listen to reason.

* * *

Toyota, as usual, took the lead in sales, this time both for July and the January-to-July period for 2004. As I said, it's become a habit, as in The Beatles consistently topping the charts during their heyday.

The irony is that despite a decrease of 8 percent in sales for the total market compared to the same period last year, which was yet the highest ever in 2004, Toyota's total sales increased by 9 percent compared to the same period last year. If that's not excellence, what is?

What's more, Toyota's July sales are the highest sales output of the company since July 1997 (3,310 units). Also, Toyota's market share is the highest since April 2004 (40 percent).

Again, Toyota has held on to the Triple Crown record for being No. 1 in overall sales, and in both passenger cars (PC) and commercial vehicle (CV) categories.

Toyota's passenger car sales was boosted by its formidable trio of the Vios (727 units sold, 27.4 percent share), Altis (530 units, 19.9 percent share) and Camry (64 units, 42.4 percent share). And to top it all, all three models are leaders in their respective categories.

And so, Tabata-san, Nakashima-san, Isla-san, Pantaleon-san, DJ-san, Raymond-san, Jing-san, Bryan-san and Elijah-san, kampai?!

* * *

Isuzu has not stopped surprising its customers.

By just dropping by at any of its dealerships, a prospective buyer may yet receive a "shower of gifts" as Isuzu's drumbeaters put it.

Lasting up to Aug. 31, the promo, "Loaded! The Isuzu Crosswind Win! Win! Win!" will grant Crosswind buyers a cache of prizes to include a Carryboy 3-Way Lock System, 5 JVC Plasma TVs, 6 Shinco Portable DVD Players, 7 Sony 40" Projection TVS, 7 Pioneer Home Theater Systems, 8 Panasonic Video Cameras, 8 Play Station 2, 10 Canon (A80) Digital Cameras, 7 I-Pod MP3 Players and 8 sets of Carryboy Massagers.

I can't think of any giveaway so glamorous than Isuzu's. Any variant (XUVi, XUV, XTRM, XT, XL) of Isuzu Crosswind purchased—whether individual, corporate or government accounts—will be entitled to those giveaways.

To top it all, every Crosswind buyer is entitled to owning the much-sought-after Isuzu Trooper during the grand raffle draw on Sept. 10 at Isuzu Pasig, with IPC officials and a DTI representative in attendance.

Isuzu dealerships are in Edsa Balintawak, Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth, Pasig, Manila, Makati and Alabang. In the provinces, Isuzu dealerships are located in Isabela, Pangasinan, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, San Pablo, Bacolod, Mandaue, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

* * *

A friend of mine owns a fleet of cars, plus an Expedition. I am not surprised. He is a rich man, his parents being bona fide resident of Forbes Park. He doesn't live there now, but he owns a large house in a posh Makati village comparable to those found in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, USA.

A while back, I saw him riding in his chauffeured Cefiro. Alighting from it, I told him, "Hey, you got a nice car there."

And he said, "Yes, it's really nice. It's my favorite."

His Cefiro (Brougham) is 2.4.

When I told him a 3.0 Cefiro would soon roll out of the Nissan assembly line, he wondered out loud: "Why, my 2.4 Cefiro is already the best in the world! How come they will still come out with a 3.0?"

At first, I didn't have the answer for that. But then, after some analysis, I told him this: Nissan has to cope with the competition. I told him Toyota's Camry has gone up from 2.4 to 3.0. And Honda would follow suit with its Accord 3.0.

"Oh, I see," he said. "I wish I could ride that new Cefiro 3.0 ahead of my friends?"

Messrs Vir Diwa and Raymond Tribdino, please take it from there?

* * *

If only for the record, here are the prices of the following vehicles, as supplied to me by friends in the industry: 4x4-Nissan X-Trail A/T P1.299M, Honda CR-V A/T P1.268 million, Mitsubishi Outlander Invecs II P1.270 million, Ford Escape (V6) A/T P1.365 million, Honda CR-V M/T P1.218 million, Ford Escape (2.3L) A/T P1.080 million, Toyota RAV4 A/T P1.238 million.

The 4x2-Honda CR-V M/T P1.009 million, Ford Escape A/T P1.080 million, Mazda Tribute (3.0L) A/T P1.180 million, Nissan X-Trail A/T P1.099 million, Honda CR-V A/T P1.059 million, Mazda Tribute (2.3L) A/T P1.130 million, Toyota RAV4 M/T P1.018 million.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Most drivers using the left/fast lane of the North Luzon Expressway are deaf. They stick to their lane like a leech and never hear you blowing your horn in case you want to overtake them.

Toyota, as usual, took the lead in sales, this time both for July and the January-to-July period for 2004. As I said, it's become a habit , as in The Beatles consistently topping the charts during their heyday

Kia service clinic

KIA owners can now get expert advice for their vehicles as well as enjoy freebies and loads of discounts on parts and services. Aptly dubbed as the Kia Service Clinic "Extreme," Kia's latest offer is their way of delivering exceptional and personalized care to their customers.

According to Apollo Rosal, national service manager, Columbian Autocar Corp., "Our previous success in conducting the KIA Service Clinic has encouraged us to make this offer an annual undertaking. And further highlights our continuing commitment to provide our valued KIA owners, professional after sales service at value for money rates."

The promotion entitles customers to a free 45-point check-up of their Kia vehicles when they visit any authorized Kia dealers from July 12 to Sept. 10.

Repairs

An engineer of Kia Motors Corp. will visit the Philippines to personally conduct the diagnosis while certified engineers and technicians of Columbian Autocar Corp. will assist in the repairs. The KMC engineer will tour Kia Pasay, New Manila, Mandaluyong, Commonwealth, Marikina, and nearby provincial outlets, namely Kia Batangas, Binan, Cavite and Pampanga. The CAC service team, on the other hand, will render thorough checkups and repairs to all authorized KIA dealers nationwide.

Aside from free diagnosis, the availing Kia vehicle will get a free aircon refrigerant charge check-up as well as free body wash, vacuum and tire black application.

Discounts

Customers can avail of a 15 percent discount on all types of services, including paint and body repair. They can also enjoy as much as 20 percent discount on Kia genuine parts. Plus, freebies and 25 percent discount on engine oil to those who will avail of the Preventive Maintenance Service (PMS), a 50 percent off on wheel alignment, and free labor on tire balancing.

Discounts are applicable to cash payments only. Likewise, labor discounts and freebies will be granted to customers who will purchase the parts at the servicing Kia dealership. Avail of this limited offer at your nearest KIA dealer.

Passing car emissions tests

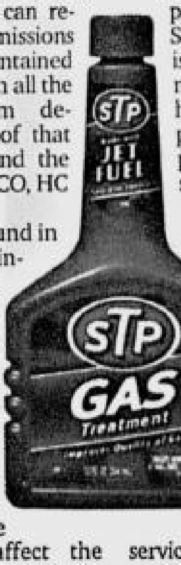
REPUBLIC Act 8749, otherwise known as the Clean Air Act of 1999, requires all motor vehicles, whether old or new to undergo vehicle emissions testing prior to registration.

The Clean Air Act sets standards for the allowable pollutant levels a vehicle must emit, given its size, weight and engine displacement, among other things.

Why cars fail emission tests

Basically one major reason a lot of vehicles fail the emissions test is poorly maintained engines, which can release up to 10 times more emissions than normal. A poorly maintained engine and fuel system—with all the carbon, sludge and gum deposits—is the main cause of that horrendous black smoke and the even deadlier high-levels of CO, HC and NOx emissions.

These deposits can be found in such critical areas as fuel injectors and carburetors, which can reduce fuel flow and alter the spray pattern of gasoline to the engine leading to a loss of power, reduced fuel economy and increased exhaust emissions.



On the other hand, intake valve deposits can restrict the flow of air into the engine and adversely affect the air/fuel ratio, leading to reduced power and slower acceleration, as well as stumbling and hesitation when the engine is cold. Help solve this problem by using STP Gas Treatment, which is specially formulated to fight harmful carbon, gum and varnish deposits in the fuel system.

You can also apply STP Fuel Injector and Carburetor Cleaner to help keep your vehicle's engine running smoothly by keeping the fuel injection system free of harmful deposits. For diesel engines, the STP Diesel Fuel Treatment helps prevent the formation of gum and residue (deposits) in the fuel delivery system while at the same time, its corrosion inhibitors help ensure a clean fuel system, even against rust and corrosion.

Preventive maintenance

Meanwhile, deposits on combustion chambers unfavorably increase the temperature at which gasoline burns, leading to knocking and pinging, increased exhaust emissions, as well as slower acceleration and poor fuel economy. But by using STP Octane Booster, fuel octane is boosted and engine performance enhanced. It restores lost horsepower and removes deposits, which cause knock and pinging as well as prevent hard starts.

Dirty, used motor oil too can leave harmful deposits in the engine. STP Engine Flush combines exceptional cleaning power plus acid neutralizing and antiwear agents to help protect engine surfaces during and after cleaning. While STP Oil Treatment treats regular motor oil to help prevent deposit formation and buildup, improve viscosity and extend service life.

Simple things like having engines tuned up regularly and regular changing of air, oil and fuel filters can spell the difference between a clean and a smoke-belching engine.

So make it a habit to practice good old-fashioned preventive maintenance. Not only will it keep your engine in tip-top shape, it would help your vehicle pass that much-needed vehicle emission test. And why not use STP Fuel and Oil Additive Products? You not only pass the test with flying colors, you help keep our air clean.

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Dummies that save lives

From page C1

data, take pictures and interview witnesses. The objective of the center is to educate the researchers so that they can, in the future, do the research themselves. And it's not only Volvo cars we investigate but all brands. This is a giveaway project to the Thai society," he told the INQUIRER.

Grönvall said his team cooperates with the local police and that within 30 to 40 minutes of the accident they are on site. He explained that the concept behind this team is to introduce the methodology of crash investigation so that local investigators will have a systematic way of collecting data on what happened before, during and after the accident.

"We have had the same type of teams in Sweden for 30 years now, but in Sweden we only cover Volvo cars involved in accidents."

Time dimensions

For the Volvo investigating team, there are three "time dimensions" to study and for that they collect three groups of data: the vehicle data from the car or motorbikes involved; occupants, drivers and witness data; and environmental information about the road surface, weather, and fixed objects surrounding the site. "With this three-dimensional matrix we can in the future find solutions and proper explanations before, during and after the accident," Grönvall said.

Worldwide, Volvo is part of the Ford Motor Co.

Grönvall and Trommler belong to the Volvo Cars Safety Center in Goteborg, Sweden.

"We are supposed to cover all the safety related issues within Ford Motor. We perform a lot of crash tests for other Ford brands as well as Jaguars, Land Rovers and Aston Martins," said Grönvall.

"Our job is to increase the minimum level of safety of other brands. It's an ongoing project." Fair enough, so that whatever car brands our own little Jon Jons and Marias would prefer to ride in, they would always arrive alive and happy, like they didn't leave home in the first place.

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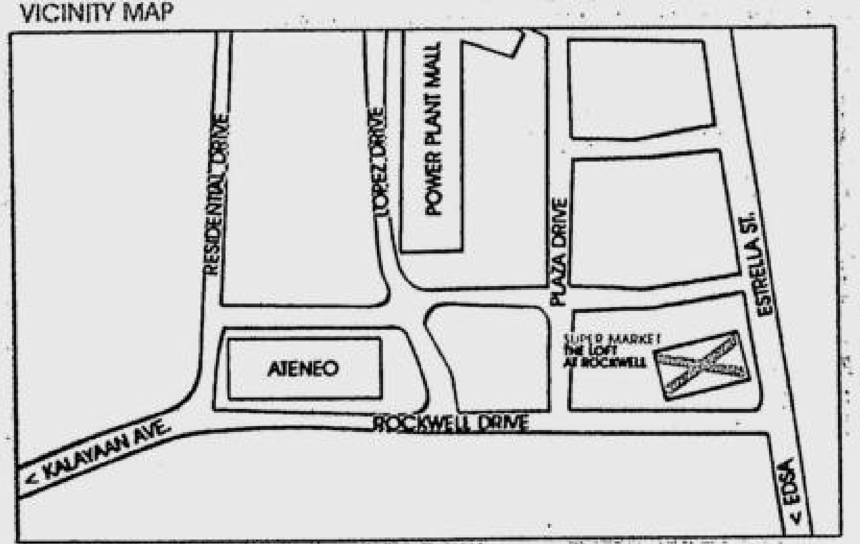

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Car wars power up

THE 1.5-LITER Vtec City has been fielded by Honda to catch up with the 1.5-liter Toyota Vios.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

YOU may have noticed that car manufacturers are coming up with bigger, more powerful engines in their existing product lines. This, at a time when oil prices went through the roof, nearing US$50 a barrel and resulting in weekly fuel price increases here.

Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. started the power-up trend when it launched the 3.0-liter 220 ps, V6 Cefiro 300EX. Last month, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. presented the 3.0-liter, 212-hp, VVT-i V6 Camry. And last week, Honda Cars Philippines began advertising the 3.0-liter, 240-hp VTEC V6 Accord. In the process, Toyota and Honda stopped selling the 2.0-liter variants of the Camry and the Accord while continuing with the 2.4-liter ones.

Catch up

Smaller cars are in the power-up race, too. Back in June, Honda introduced the 1.5-liter, VTEC version of its 1.3-liter subcompact City in an effort to catch up with the Toyota Vios, which from the time it was introduced in May 2003 offered a choice of either a 1.5-liter or a 1.3-liter VVT-i engine. Targeting young buyers in the market for their first car, Toyota from day one got a head start in sales over the City not only because of the Vios' more esthetic rear end design, but also because of the two engine choices.

In July 2004 alone, according to a press release from Toyota, 727 units of the Vios were sold, or 462 units more than the number of City units sold. Toyota thus dominated the entry-level subcompact passenger car market with 27.4 percent market share last month.

Heeding criticism of the City's controversial rear-end overhang, Honda installed a new taillight design and a new sporty rear bumper design in the 2004 City, both the 1.5 VTEC and 1.3 i-DSI variants. But when you compare rear view photos of the '03 and '04 City, it's hard to spot any difference.

High-tech

On the other hand, Toyota should not be lulled into complacency by the market leadership of the Vios. Last July 13, Honda unveiled the Jazz, which is exactly the same as the 1.3-liter City except for its snazzy hatchback and the different two-tone color of its interior. The Jazz is an eye-catching, amazingly roomy small car housing high-tech innovations and conveniences that even the current Honda Civic does not have, much less the Vios.

The only drawback is that the Jazz does not offer the 1.5-liter option of the City and the Vios. But who knows? Honda might decide in the near future to upgrade the Jazz with the same 1.5-liter VTEC powerplant that they dropped into the City's engine bay. Then Honda will have a sure winner.

Left behind

Meanwhile, how would you feel if you bought a 2.0-liter Camry or Accord only to find out one or two years later that it will be phased out in favor of the 3.0-liter and 2.4-liter variants? Or if you acquired a 2.0-liter Ford Escape compact SUV, unaware that a 3.0-liter V6 and a 2.3-liter variant were in the pipeline? You would feel sort of left behind, wouldn't you? But at least, you can find consolation in the knowledge that your less powerful car consumes less fuel than the upgraded variants during these days of endlessly soaring pump prices.

Flooding the market with so many more new cars and variants seemingly defies logic because of the looming oil crisis. But there is a reason for this, as summarized by Honda Cars marketing exec Arnel Doria at the media presentation of the Jazz last month. The share of passenger cars in the total auto market more than doubled immediately after the excise tax law was revised in October 2003 removing the tax advantage enjoyed by commercial vehicles, Doria said. As most of the industry players expected, the share of passenger cars rose from 21 percent to more than 40 percent and from January to June this year, they accounted for 38 percent of the total market.

Crowded market

The growing market share renewed the carmakers' interest in the passenger car market, such that in less than one year after the amended excise tax law took effect, more than 18 car models and variants were launched, Doria stated. As of the date he spoke (July 13, 2004), there were 46 car models and variants, making the Philippines one of the most crowded passenger car markets. Since sedans comprise 95 percent of the passenger car market, Doria said, Honda decided to bring in the hatchback Jazz. After all, the 1.2-liter Civic hatchback was a great success in the 1990s and people still inquire about a new hatchback model, Doria claimed.

For that matter, with the 3.0-liter and 2.4-liter Accord sedans, the 2.0 and 1.6-liter Civic sedans, the 1.5 and 1.3-liter City sedans and the 1.3-liter Jazz hatchback, Honda has got all the bases covered in the passenger car ball game. Toyota, with an all-sedan lineup (3.0 and 2.4-liter Camry, 1.8 and 1.6-liter Corolla Altis, 1.5 and 1.3-liter Vios) may have to enter a hatchback if the Honda Jazz sells well. The 1.3-liter Toyota Will Cypha or the 1.5-liter Fun Cargo, perhaps?

* * *

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(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

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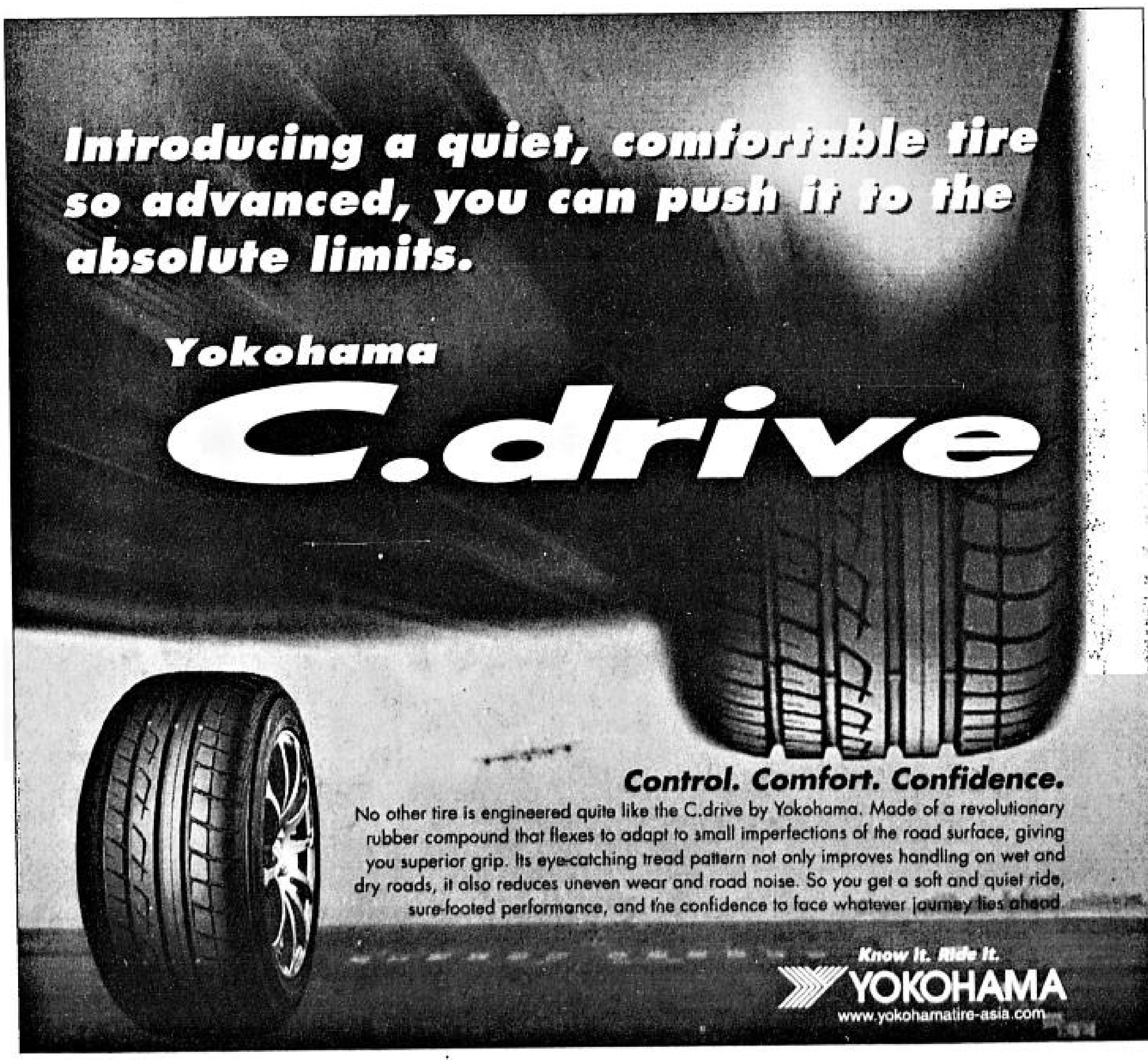

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Buying fuel-efficient vehicles can be a smart choice

By Charles E. Buban

THE SIGNIFICANT spike in gasoline and diesel fuel prices in recent months brings us back to a similar development that happened 31 years ago.

In October 1973, the world experienced its first oil crisis when the Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) announced that they would no longer ship petroleum to nations that had supported Israel in its conflict with Egypt—that is, to the United States and its allies in Western Europe.

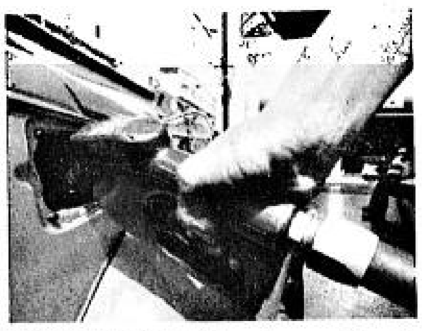
The effects of the embargo were immediate: everywhere motorists faced long lines at fuel stations, rationing of gasoline occurred in many countries, and in the United States, a national speed limit of 55 miles per hour (that's around 88 km/h) was imposed to help reduce consumption.

Suddenly, motorists found that it could no longer afford to thoughtlessly consume gasoline and diesel fuels and thus, the large automobiles of the '50s and '60s were soon retired and replaced by far more compact and energy-efficient cars.

Leading the way

The Japanese and European automakers led the way in an ensuing revolution in car manufacturing with the likes of Honda Civic, Datsun and Volkswagen taking a quick chunk of the market.

Not to be outdone, Ford later launched its Pinto while the Chevrolet let its Vega join the fray.



WITH THE PRICE of gasoline and diesel fuels steadily going up, opting for a more fuel-efficient vehicle becomes the smarter choice. EPA/MIKE ALQUINTO

"The automotive companies have always adapted. Just like the oil crisis in the '70s and those that followed it, the automotive companies were forced to engineer and produce more efficient vehicles," noted Nissan Westgate managing director Rene Limcaoco.

He believes this is good for the consumers as they get better and more efficient products.

Choosing the right vehicle

Now that another fuel crisis is looming, one of the first things a car buyer should greatly consider nowadays is his or her transportation needs.

"Since an automobile is one of the major purchases most Filipinos would make, I guess it's only logical that they invest on something they would enjoy driving. But more than the looks, they should also choose performance," Limcaoco suggested.

Experts suggest it's best to car shop based on one's driving needs, not on one's occasional needs.

"Buy what you need most of the time. An Asian utility vehicle or even a van is a great choice if are you looking for a vehicle you can fit the whole family in on a regular basis," suggested Ariel de Jesus of Toyota Motor Philippines.

Gasoline versus diesel

Then there's also the gasoline versus diesel thing.

Yes, gasoline-powered engine is good. A quick snap of the throttle generally renders sharp response and some excellent acceleration.

But it comes at a cost to those owners who have to grin and bare the steadily rising price of gasoline every time they make a fuel refill.

At the last count, gasoline prices have risen nine times since January by a total of P5.35 to 5.30 a liter (compared to diesel's price that have gone up eight times by a total of P4.15 to P4.30 a liter).

This is where the diesel power takes some upper hand.

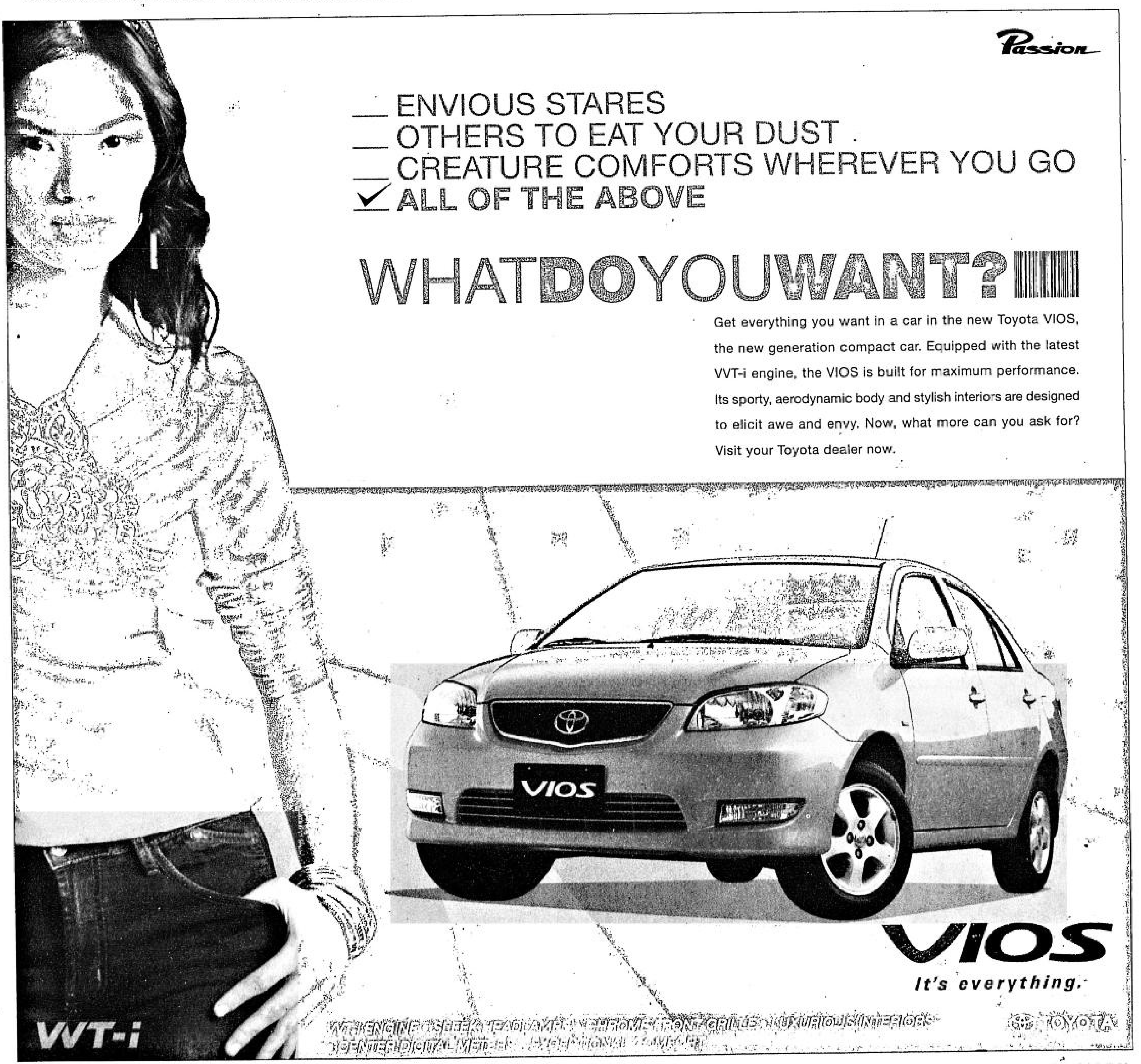
"A diesel engine is a far more efficient power plant, providing increased durability, longevity, fuel economy and maintenance costs over that of a gasoline engine," revealed Timmy Naval of Isuzu Motor Philippines, whose mother company in Japan is currently pouring its energies into research and development of a clean diesel engine to reduce emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, one of the fuel's disadvantages versus the gasoline.

Saving on fuel

Here are other suggestions on car buying or practices that could provide savings on fuel consumption:

- Opting for a base engine will improve a vehicle's fuel efficiency and emissions. Unless there is a frequent need to tow or haul—which requires big and powerful engine—then a small engine would be sufficient enough to get you from point A to point B.
- Avoid making solo trips in a vehicle with room for six. Take the smallest vehicle you have and leave your bigger vehicle at home more often.
- Rather than drive separately, let your family members or friends ride into your van, AUV or sport-utility vehicle.
- Loading up a vehicle with every option imaginable could bog down fuel efficiency. Go easy on the extras and remember: less weight means better mileage.
- Place your baggage inside. Avoid carrying items on your vehicle's roof whenever possible as this increases the air drag and can pull down your vehicle's mileage by 5 percent.
- Be serious about auto care as your vehicle's performance depends on it. Always check tire pressure as underinflated tires wear down more quickly and lower gas mileage. Also, replace your car's filter regularly as dirt and other clogging can cause one's engine to work harder and thus, becoming less fuel-efficient.

SINCE JANUARY, gasoline prices have risen nine times, while the diesel prices eight times. ERIK ARAZAS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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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FRIDAY **HOME & FASHION** ◉ SUNDAY **SURPRISES**

Can't 'rice' to the occasion

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I GOT my favorite Crème Brulée coffee from Godiva! If you haven't had a perfect brew lately, go to Chef's Nook (220 Pilar St., Mandaluyong, tel. no. 7245812) and grab a bag. While you're at it, buy the ingredients you need for Asian cooking and all the Tulip and Callibaut Chocolates for baking.

In need of rice cooker

I can't cook rice right. Mine's always hard, burnt or wet. My husband thinks I cook well cause my mama prepares his *baon*. She still does but I cook the rice and he always complains about it.

NENA VELASQUEZ

Don't despair, perfectly cooked rice is not that easy to do. If all these tips fail, make a clean breast of it and tell your husband the truth. It will set you free. Good Luck!

Tips for a perfect bowl of steamed rice:

Go to an appliance center and buy a gadget called a rice cooker. Read the manual. More often than not, your rice will come out perfect.

Basic ratio is 1 c rice to 1½ c water +/- 2-4 tbsp water, depending on how wet or dry you like your rice.

Mt. Fuji method—Put rice in a pan. Place the tip of your index finger flat on top of rice, fill with water up to the first knuckle of your index finger.

If rice is a bit burnt, lay a slice of bread on top of the rice. Cover and leave for 10 minutes so the bread will absorb most of the burnt taste. Remove rice without scraping bottom.

For fluffy rice—Bring 4 c water to a boil. Add 1 c of rice. Cook as you would pasta, then drain. Perfect for pilafs.

What is the perfect proportion for Sweet and Sour Sauce?

This is a very popular request. Here it is but there are no exact measurements for ingredients. Your taste buds and mine are not the same. Increase the acid if you like it tart, sugar if you like it sweet, and chili powder if you like it spicy. Remember, taste your sauce and add seasoning according to your personal preference. Use the recipe as your guide.

Shrimps in Sweet and Sour Sauce

(Substitute pork or squid)

Cut into bite size pieces, marinate and dredge in ½ c cornstarch. Shake off excess. Deep-fry until golden. Drain on paper towels and top with sauce. Or use a whole fish. Marinate fish and deep-fry. Top with sauce.

½ c chicken stock or water
¼ c each of ketchup, sugar and pineapple juice
1-2 tbsp vinegar
2 tsp soy sauce
1 tsp chili powder or pepper flakes
1 tbsp cornstarch
½ k shrimps, peeled (tails left intact) and de-veined
2 tsp each minced ginger, garlic
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 cup each of thinly sliced onions, 1-inch cubed green bell pepper, pineapple chunks
1/3 c thinly sliced green onions

Combine stock, ketchup, sugar, juice, vinegar, soy, chili and cornstarch. Mix well.

Marinate shrimp in ginger, garlic for 15 mins.

Heat oil. Add shrimps and cook until their color changes. Set aside. Add onions, peppers, sauce, pineapple, green onions.

Cook until sauce thickens

Golden quest

My mom and dad are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. They would like to know if you can help me find beautiful embroidered and monogrammed linens.

TINA CUENCA

Wow, 50 years! I remember how special Dad and Mom's was. I agree that no detail should be left unattended. I have the perfect source, Las Bordadoras. I love them and can vouch for the quality of their work.

While you're at it, have them make sheets, too, for your parents. Monogrammed, 100 percent cotton, sinful thread count! Call 7180901 or 7180365.

KR's Wine series (Part 3)

Types of wine

Most popular grapes and the wines they produce:

Cabernet Sauvignon–These wines are made from grapes of the same name. Taste: blackberries, cedar. Contains a lot of tannin, making it a good red wine when properly aged.

Chardonnay–Fresh, fruity grape. Taste: fruits, melon, peach, etc., sometimes oaky. Popular and easiest to grow white grape.

Merlot–Early ripening grape. Taste: cherry, honey, sometimes mint. Major blending component of most Bordeaux wines.

Muscat–Strong-tasting grape. Many varieties. Used for Asti Spumanti.

Pinot Blanc–Grape has a flavor very much like Chardonnay. A mutation of the Pinot Gris. Used in many California sparkling wines.

Pinot Gris–Pinot Noir Clone. Used to create both fine whites and rosés.

Pinot Noir–Grapes are softer, very sensitive and ripen earlier than Cabernet. Used often in red wines but also used without skins as a white ingredient in Champagne.

Riesling–Dessert wine. Grape has honeyed, musky flavor. Native to Germany but used in other countries under other names. Used to make Ice Wine.

Sauvignon Blanc–Grassy, crisp, light wine.

Syrah/Shiraz–Grown in France and California as Syrah wine and in Australia as Shiraz. Taste: mineral-flavored, blueberry, spicy, peppery.

Zinfandel–Mostly grown in California, though thought to have originated in Southern Italy. Taste: fruity, spicy depending on age. Makes Red Zinfandel if the skins are left on and White Zinfandel if skins are removed.

Definitions taken from "The Wine Companion."

Next Week: Food and Wine Pairing

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

Gourmet Classes with Chef Dennis Hipolito
#137 9th Street corner Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City

About Chef Dennis: Dean's List graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY/Food Stylist* Owner of Jocende Cakes* Took over classes from the famed Gourmet, Mme Aquino Lichaeco in New Manila *Trained under the tutelage of World Pastry Cup Champion Jin-Ming Hsu of the Ritz Carlton Chicago (a Four Seasons Hotel), Dan Budd of Park Avenue Café Chicago, Cake Stylist- Betty Van Norstrand, Food Stylist-Delores Custer and other instructors in the Philippines

September 04, 2004: COFFEE SHOP GOODIES 2 (Totally Irresistible)
- *NEW CLASS* Orange Glazed Cake Doughnuts, Chocolate Glazed Melts in the Mouth Doughnuts, Moist Orange and Lemon Loaf Cake, Decadent Warm Chocolate Madness (Cake), Chocolate Walnut Torte-P1600, 1:00PM-4:30PM

September 11, 2004: RESTAURANT DESSERTS II (Simply Yummy!!!)
- Chocolate Carrot Cake, Crepe Sanmai, English Trifle, Yema Cake, Chewy Oatmeal Cookie Squares-P1500, 1:00PM-4:30PM

September 18, 2004: COOKIES TO DIE FOR II (Best For Gift Giving)
- *NEW CLASS* Biscotti ala Banana Bread, Orange Poppy Seed Chocolate Chunk Cookies, Buttery and Light Rugelach, Irresistible Shortbread Cookies, Old Fashioned Chocolate Date and Nut Cookies -P1500, 1:00PM-4:30PM

September 25, 2004: CHEESECAKES III (More Yummy Cheesecakes)
- Tiramisu Cheesecake, Dulce de Leche Cheesecake, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Cheesecake, White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake, Blueberry Cheesecake Tort-P1850, 1:00PM-4:30PM

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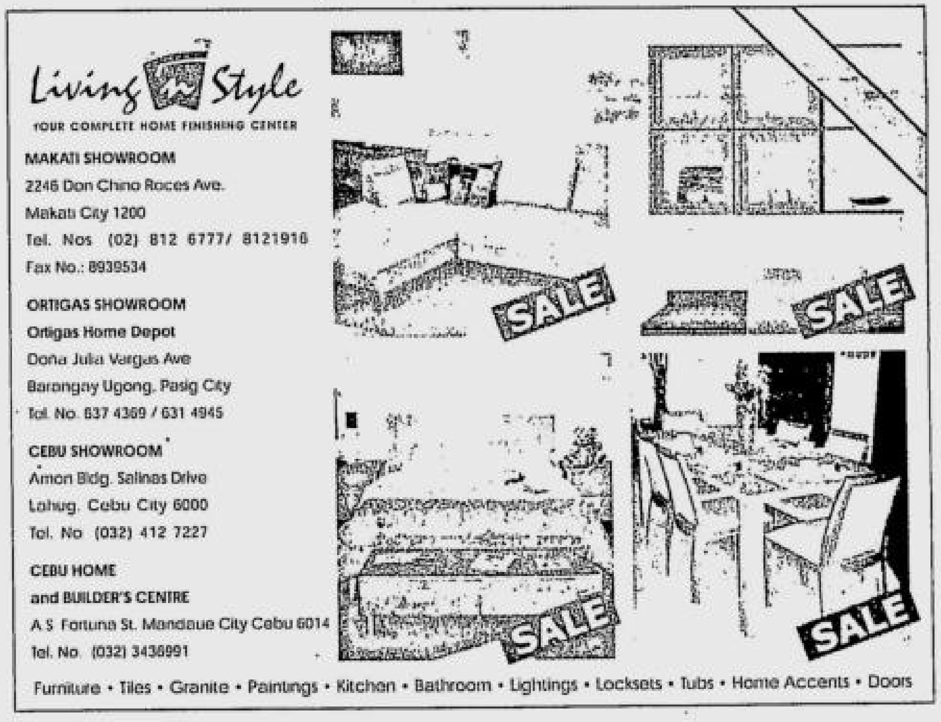

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Steaks & Roast Galore: Sept. 4 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Beef Tournados with Mustard Sauce and Spaetzle, Minute Steak in Pepper Sauce, Pan Roasted Rosemary Chicken with Basil Mashed Potatoes Pan Jus, Roasted Pork with Applesauce and Rice Pilaf, Blackened Fish with Succotash and Cajun Butter. Bonus: Osso Bucco Steak with Mushroom Sauce including lecture on preparation of basic steak sauce, marinades for roast, cuts of beef, proper techniques of grilling. P1,000
Kakanin: Sept. 4 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Puto, Cuchinta, Cassava Bibingka, Palitao, Pichi-Pichi, Maja Blanca. Free Bibingka Mix. P700
Brownies Plus: Sept. 4 (Sat) 2 - 5:30 p.m. Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road, Butterscotch Squares, Food for the Gods, Brownie Mousse. Free Decadence Premium Brownie Mix. P700.
Regional Pinoy Cooking: Sept. 11 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. La Paz Bachoy, Kilawin Kapangpangan, Bacolod style Chicken Inasal, Pinaputok na Plapla ng Laguna, Bulalong Davao, Crispy Pata. P800.
Chinese Snacks: Sept. 11 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Siopao, Cuapao, Hopia Dice and Hopia Baboy, Putopao, Siomai, Chinese Lumpia. P750
Quick & Easy Desserts: Sept. 11 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Cathedral Window, Almond Gulaman & Lychee Cooler, Buko-Pandan, Coffee Jelly, Mango Samurai, Chocolate Mousse. P600.
Doughnuts to Go: Sept. 18 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Learn plain and fancy variations (Strawberry, Banana, Pineapple, Butterscotch, Chocolate, etc.) Bonus: Bichu Bichu. P600.
Rice Toppings: By Popular Demand! Sept. 25 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Tapa Tips Garlic Rice, Native Longganisa Adobo Rice, Tocino Pineapple Rice, Tinapa Bagoong Rice, Crispy Corned Beef Kasubha Rice, Sweet & Sour Pork Parsleyed Rice, Tofu Teriyaki Rice. Bonus: Spaghetti Laing Pesto. P800.
Pinoy Breads: Sept. 25 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Ensaymada, Mongo Loaf, Rainbow Bread, Banana Bread, Raisin Bread, Pandesal with Filling (Adobo, Spanish Bread). P600
Italian Sampler: Sept. 25 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Lasagna, Cannelloni, Ravioli, Assorted Pasta and sauces: Spaghetti Carbonara, Puttanesca Penne and Pesto Linguini. P700.
CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON. (Limited enrolment, pre-registration required)
Cooking 2: Aug. 31, Sept. 1-3 or Sept. 14-17 (T-F) 8:30 - 1:30 p.m. Review of basic culinary principles; Meal Management; Knowledge of Herbs, Spices and Condiments; Basic Maintenance and Preservation of Food (Proper Receiving, Storage and Preparation); Menu Planning, Kitchen Accounting and Recipe Formulation; Actual Workshop on international cuisine: ethnic cooking, hors d'ouvre, salads, cooked/cured/prepared foods and quick desserts; Market Basket Activity. P5,000.
Baking 2 (Advanced): Aug. 31, Sept. 1-3 or Sept. 14-17 (T-F) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Baking ingredients and their functions, baker's percentage/math, commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies, cakes, pastries and bakery products including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P3,000.
Cooking I: Sept. 7-10 or 21-24 (T-F) 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Proper Hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking, stocks, soups and sauces and its 1001 application to poultry, fish, shellfish, fruits and vegetables; common herbs and spices; purchasing; marketing and proper storage; menu planning; simple garnish and plate presentation. Plus actual cooking workshop on the preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert. P4,000.
Baking I (Basic): Sept. 7-10 or 21-24 (T-F) 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Basic basics of baking including techniques applied to the preparation of pies, quick breads, cakes and more. P3,000 with free cookbook.
Catering Seminar: Sept. 17-18 (F-S) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Legal and technical aspect to get started in a catering business. Facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of popular Filipino & international dishes: Morcon, Galantina, Baked Macaroni, Chicken Pastel, Quiche Lorraine, Eggplant Skordalia, Phyllo Chicken Crunchies. Bonus: salad and dessert recipes. Free "Food Service" catering cookbook. P3,000
Cake Decorating (Basic): Sept. 18 & 25 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making, bunching. P3,000
For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*

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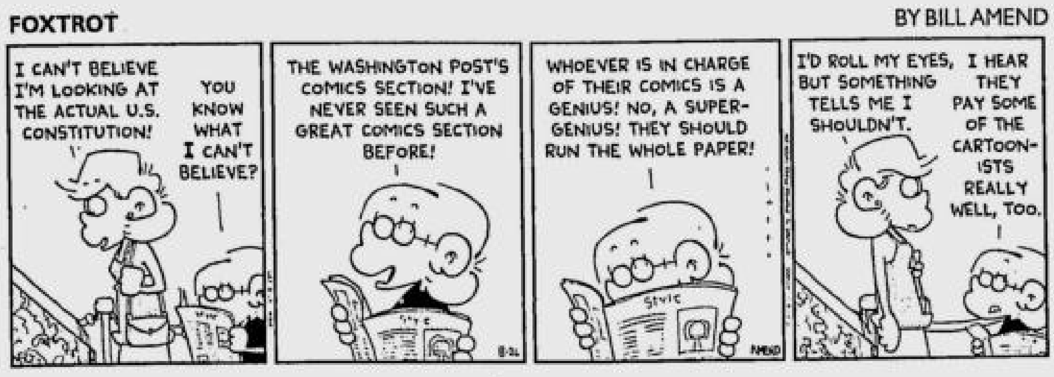
BY BILL AMEND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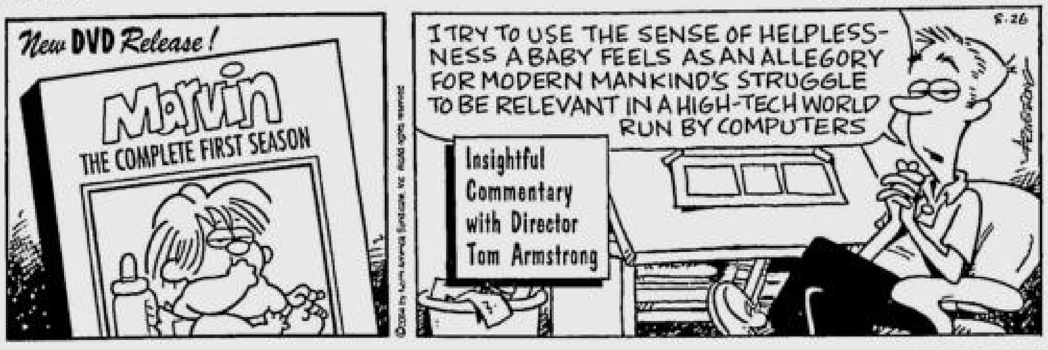
BY TOM ARMSTRONG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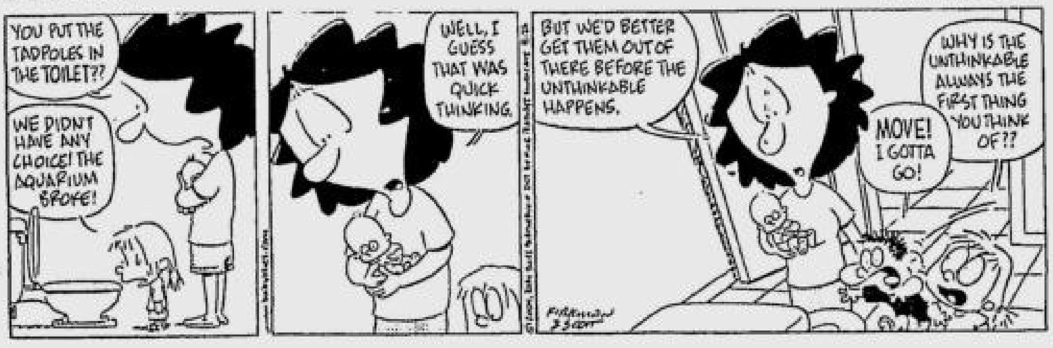
Marvin
THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON
I TRY TO USE THE SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS A BABY FEELS AS AN ALLEGORY FOR MODERN MANKIND'S STRUGGLE TO BE RELEVANT IN A HIGH-TECH WORLD RUN BY COMPUTERS
Insightful Commentary with Director Tom Armstrong
8-26
ARMSTRONG

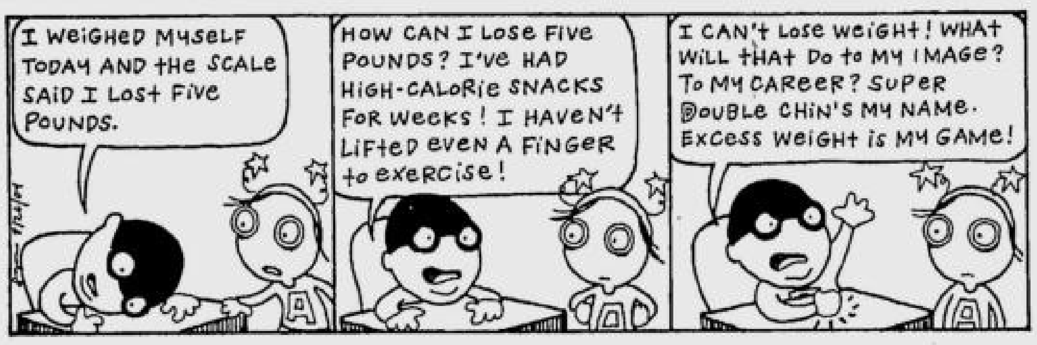
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU PUT THE TADPOLES IN THE TOILET??
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE! THE AQUARIUM BROKE!
WELL, I GUESS THAT WAS QUICK THINKING.
BUT WE'D BETTER GET THEM OUT OF THERE BEFORE THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS.
WHY IS THE UNTHINKABLE ALWAYS THE FIRST THING YOU THINK OF??
MOVE! I GOTTA GO!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I WEIGHED MYSELF TODAY AND THE SCALE SAID I LOST FIVE POUNDS.
HOW CAN I LOSE FIVE POUNDS? I'VE HAD HIGH-CALORIE SNACKS FOR WEEKS! I HAVEN'T LIFTED EVEN A FINGER TO EXERCISE!
I CAN'T LOSE WEIGHT! WHAT WILL THAT DO TO MY IMAGE? TO MY CAREER? SUPER DOUBLE CHIN'S MY NAME. EXCESS WEIGHT IS MY GAME!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You like to work behind the scenes. You're capable of taking on great responsibilities. You're modest and cooperative because you see the value of getting along with others. Sometimes you prefer to work alone. Many of you have a strong, unusually significant partnership in your life. This year you must work very hard for changes and rewards in 2005-06.

Birthdate of: Christopher Columbus, explorer; Macaulay Culkin, actor; Christopher Isherwood, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Relations with authority figures are a bit strained today. Don't push your luck. This is not the day to ask for something from anyone who has the right to say yay or nay.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be extra-patient with siblings and relatives. And more importantly, be extra-patient with yourself. It's easy to fall into pessimism today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is not an ideal day for business and commercial transactions. You probably won't defend your own best interests. You're afraid to demand the advantage.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Relations with partners and close friends are a bit standoffish or distant. Trust does not come easily. You fear rejection or criticism. (That's what the other person fears, too.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It seems to be a bit strained at work today. Situations and people are less than cooperative. It's not hard; it's just not easy. Tomorrow is a completely different day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be gentle and patient with children today. It's easy to be judgmental today, whereas on a different day, you would be more easygoing and tolerant. Think about this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with parents and bosses are a bit of a downer today. Avoid them if you can. Suddenly, everything is back to rules and regulations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): There's a slightly gloomy quality present today. Your glass is half-empty. Nevertheless, common sense shows that if it's half-empty, it's also half-full. Keep your spirits strong.

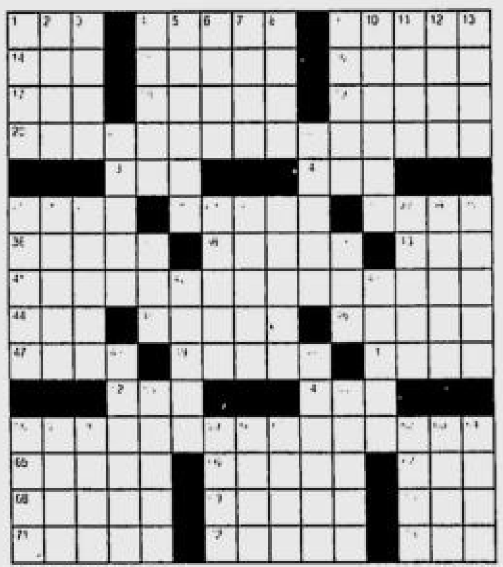
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might feel broke today. The old money squeeze. Possibly, what you received from someone else is less than you expected. (A rich life has surprisingly little to do with money.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today's Moon in your sign opposes your ruler, Saturn. This makes people judgmental of each other. Pessimism is easy; optimism is unattainable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's a bit of a grind at work today. "I owe, I owe; it's off to work I go." It's nothing you can't handle. Accept offers of help if they come your way—and they might.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't let a friend discourage you from your bright ideas about getting organized. You will feel a strong sense of satisfaction by finishing something.

DAILY CROSSWORD



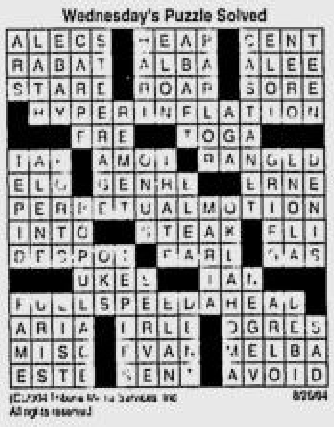
By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/26/04

ACROSS
1 Health resort
4 Thicket
9 Forces out
14 Craving
15 Beyond the suburbs
16 Progeny
17 Bottom line
18 Bikini, e.g.
19 Roman courtyards
20 Start of Dave Barry quote
23 Crenshaw or Hogan
24 "__ the land of the free ..."
25 District
28 Yawned
32 Durante feature
36 Tiniest
38 Torn down in London
40 Londoner's last letter
41 Part 2 of quote
44 Brief life?
45 Grant recipient
46 Ray
47 Places to stay the night
49 Less common
51 Approach
52 Important time
54 Letter from Athens
56 End of quote
65 Leaves out
66 Indian bread?
67 May celebrant
68 Search
69 Analyze chemically
70 __ tai (rum cocktail)
71 Sign on a door
72 Grazes
73 Ed or Mel of the diamond

DOWN
1 Harmony, briefly
2 Equal
3 Feed the pot
4 Shipping container
5 Excursion
6 B.C. or Ont.
7 Mall happening
8 Raines of old films
9 Missouri tributary
10 Start of a recovery
11 Rani's wrap
12 Minnesota ballplayer
13 Hosiery mishap
21 Discomfit
22 Cowboy's showcase
25 Suspect's story
26 Spruce juice
27 Jackson's Secretary of War
29 Field of activity
30 Debt settler
31 First name in cosmetics
33 Endangered layer
34 Actress Berger
35 Artist Degas
37 Kennedy or Koppel
39 Lake maker
42 Sacred text of Islam
43 Veranda
48 Finalize
50 Peruse again
53 Stairway piece
55 Low cards
56 Popular knowledge
57 Infamous Ugandan Idi
58 Sort through
59 Steffi of tennis
60 Ponder
61 Church part
62 BB supply
63 Half a satyr
64 Give off

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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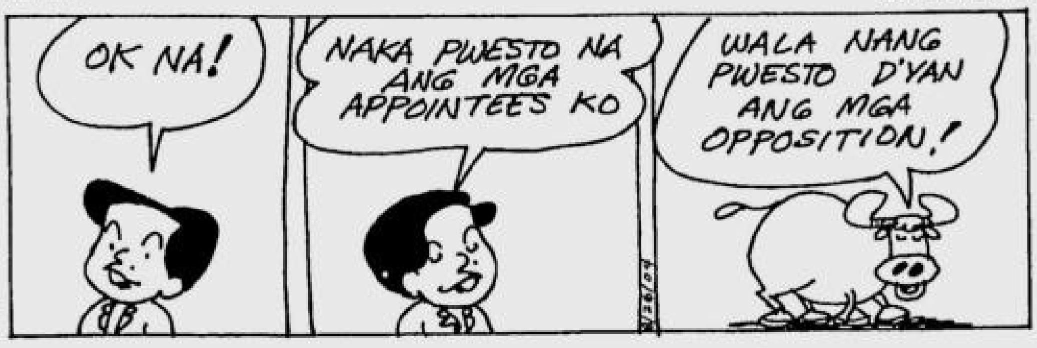
8/25/04

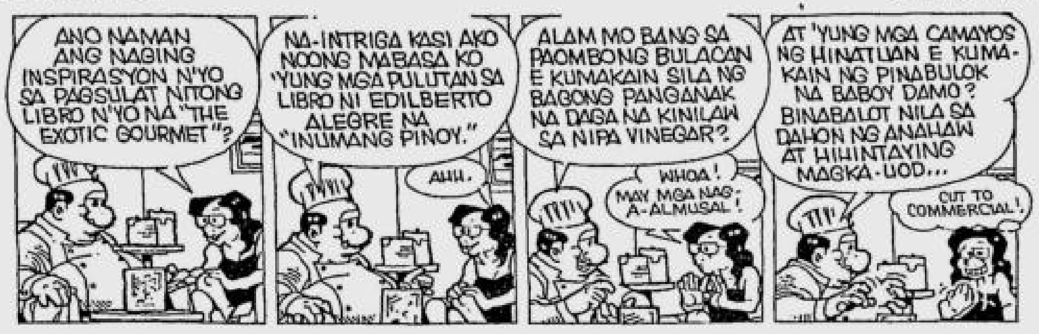
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK NA!
NAKA PWESTO NA ANG MGA APPOINTEES KO
WALA NANG PWESTO D'YAN ANG MGA OPPOSITION!

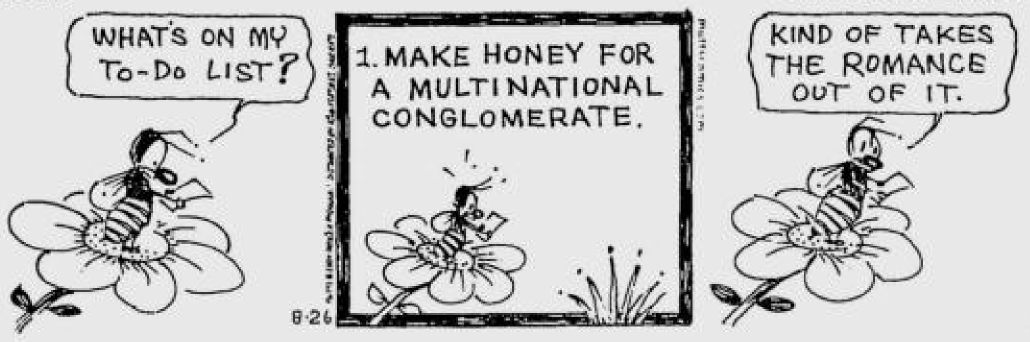
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO NAMAN ANG NAGING INSPIRASYON N'YO SA PAGSULAT NITONG LIBRO N'YO NA "THE EXOTIC GOURMET"?
NA-INTRIGA KASI AKO NOONG MABASA KO 'YUNG MGA PULUTAN SA LIBRO NI EDILBERTO ALEGRE NA "INUMANG PINOY."
AHH.
ALAM MO BANG SA PAOMBONG BULACAN E KUMAKAIN SILA NG BAGONG PANGANAK NA DAGA NA KINILAW SA NIPA VINEGAR?
WHOA! MAY MGA NAG-A-ALMUSAL!
AT 'YUNG MGA CAMAYOS NG HINATUAN E KUMAKAIN NG PINABULOK NA BABOY DAMO? BINABALOT NILA SA DAHON NG ANAHAW AT HIHINTAYING MAGKA-UOD...
CUT TO COMMERCIAL!

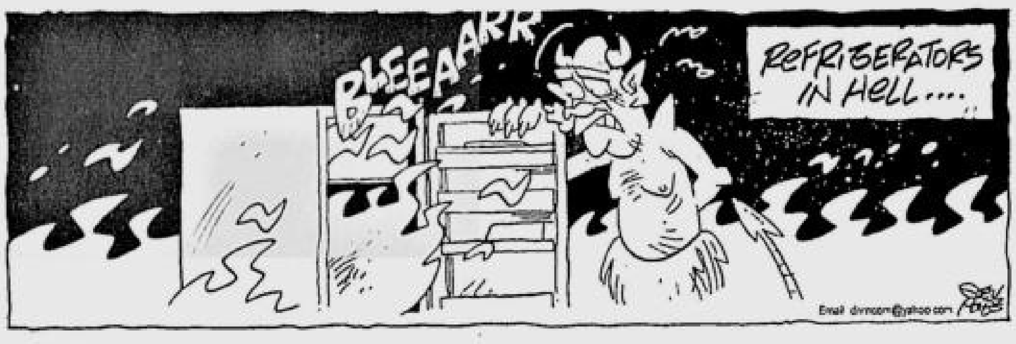
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY TO-DO LIST?
1. MAKE HONEY FOR A MULTINATIONAL CONGLOMERATE.
KIND OF TAKES THE ROMANCE OUT OF IT.
8-26

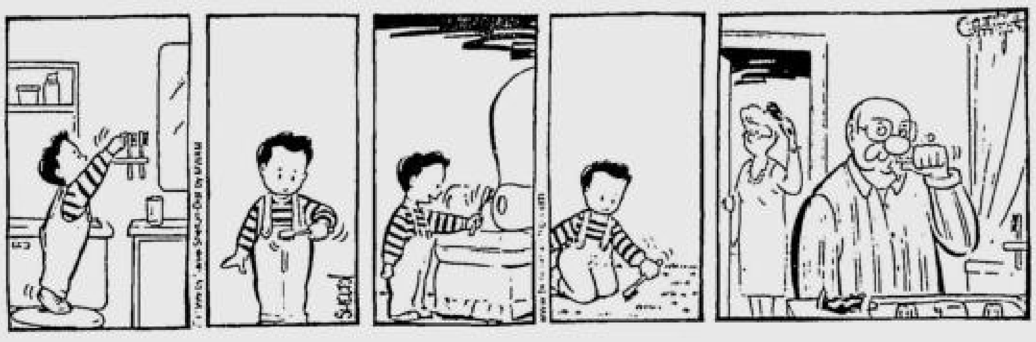
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BLEEAARR
REFRIGERATORS IN HELL....
Email divncom@yahoo.com

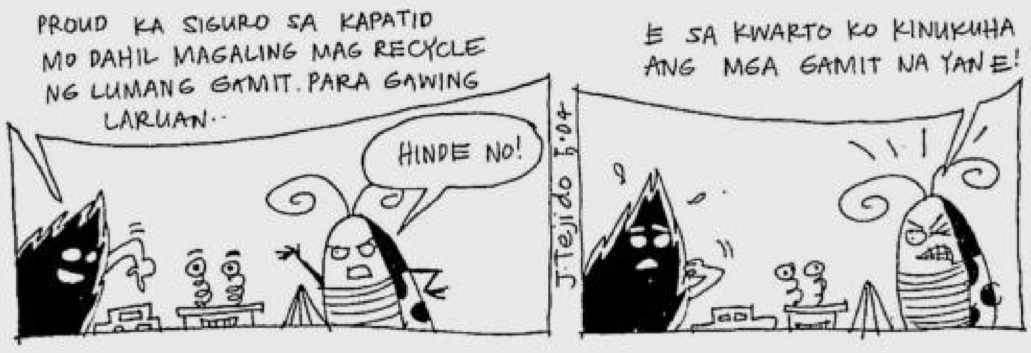
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



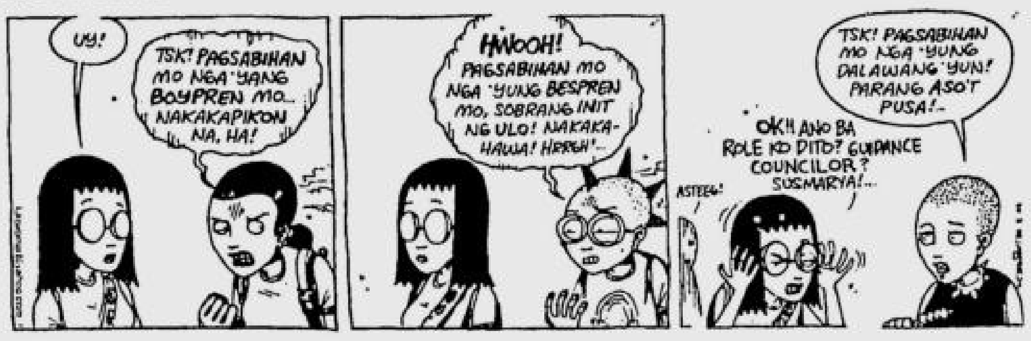
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PROUD KA SIGURO SA KAPATID MO DAHIL MAGALING MAG RECYCLE NG LUMANG GAMIT. PARA GAWING LARUAN..
HINDE NO!
E SA KWARTO KO KINUKUHA ANG MGA GAMIT NA YAN E!
J. Tejido 5.04

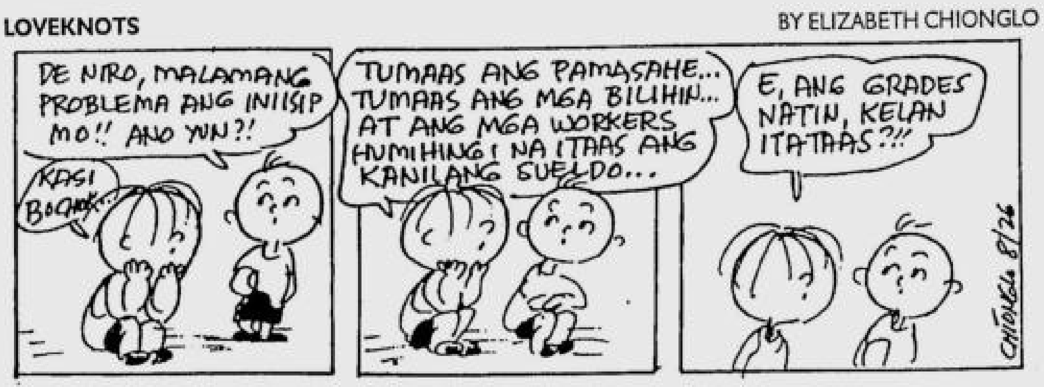
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY!
TSK! PAGSABIHAN MO NGA 'YANG BOYPREN MO... NAKAKAPIKON NA, HA!
HWOOH! PAGSABIHAN MO NGA 'YUNG BESPREN MO, SOBRANG INIT NG ULO! NAKAKAHAWA! HRRGH!..
ASTEEG!
OK!! ANO BA ROLE KO DITO? GUIDANCE COUNCILOR? SUSMARYA!...
TSK! PAGSABIHAN MO NGA 'YUNG DALAWANG 'YUN! PARANG ASO'T PUSA!..

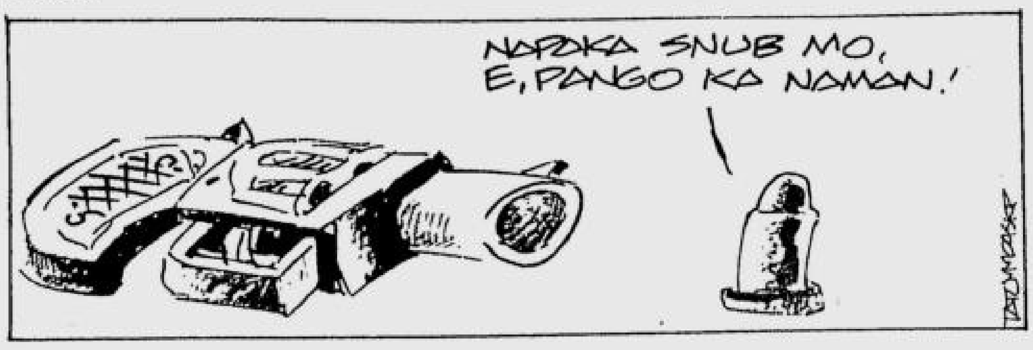
LOVEKNOTS

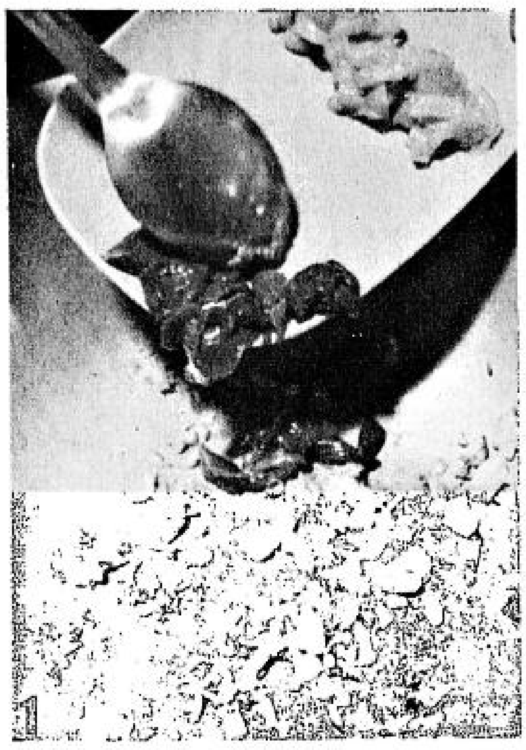
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, MALAMANG PROBLEMA ANG INIISIP MO!! ANO YUN?!
KASI BOGHOK...
TUMAAS ANG PAMASAHE... TUMAAS ANG MGA BILIHIN... AT ANG MGA WORKERS HUMIHINGI NA ITAAS ANG KANILANG SUELDO...
E, ANG GRADES NATIN, KELAN ITATAAS?!!
CHIONGLO 8/26

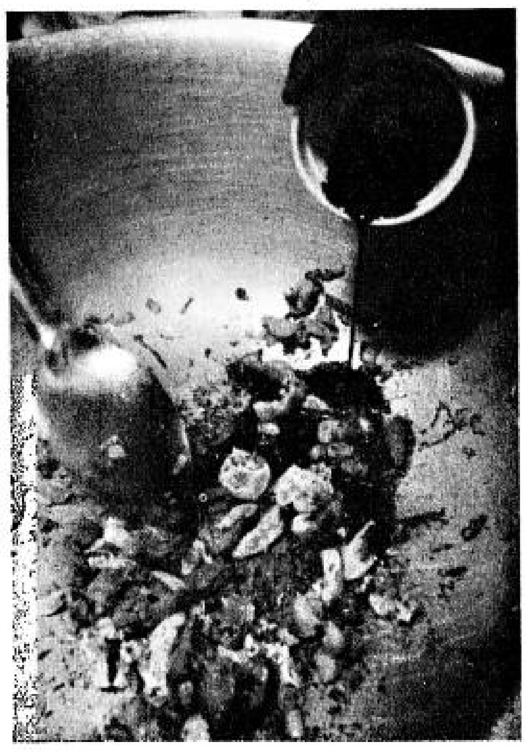
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

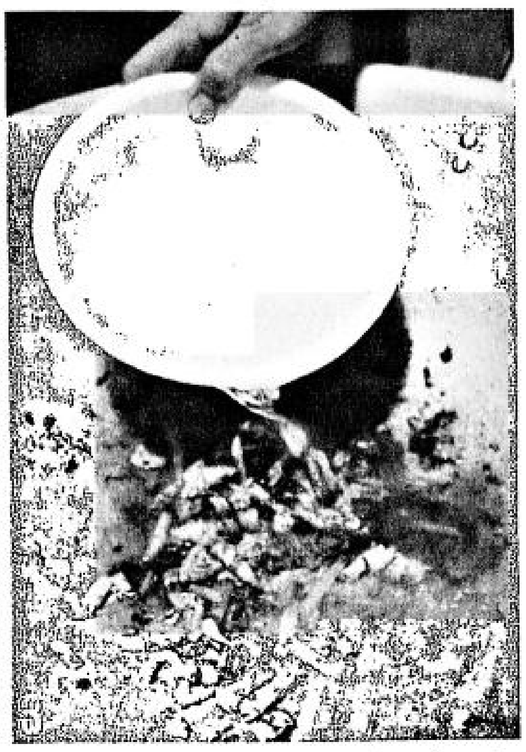

NAPAKA SNUB MO, E, PANGO KA NAMAN!



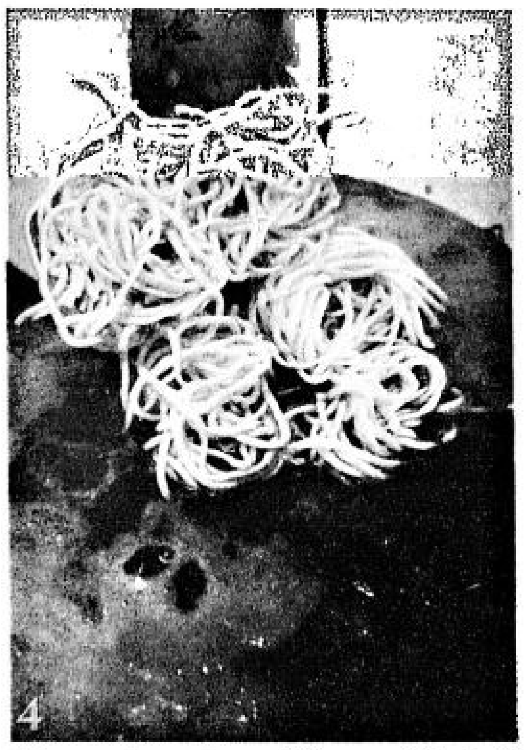
AFTER sauteing garlic and onion in cooking oil, fry chicken, pork and liver cuts.



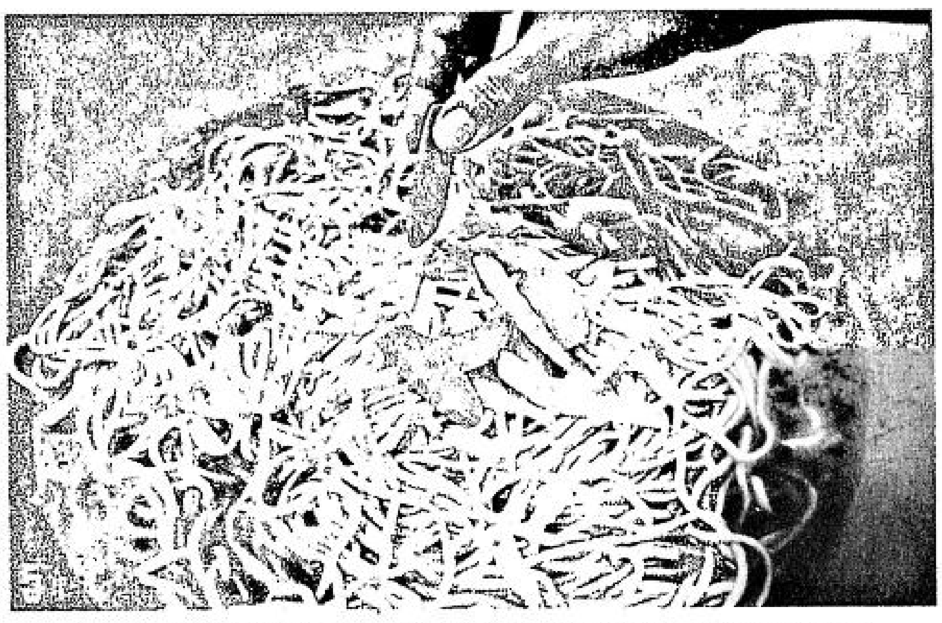
POUR soy sauce and add a dash of pepper and sugar to the mix.



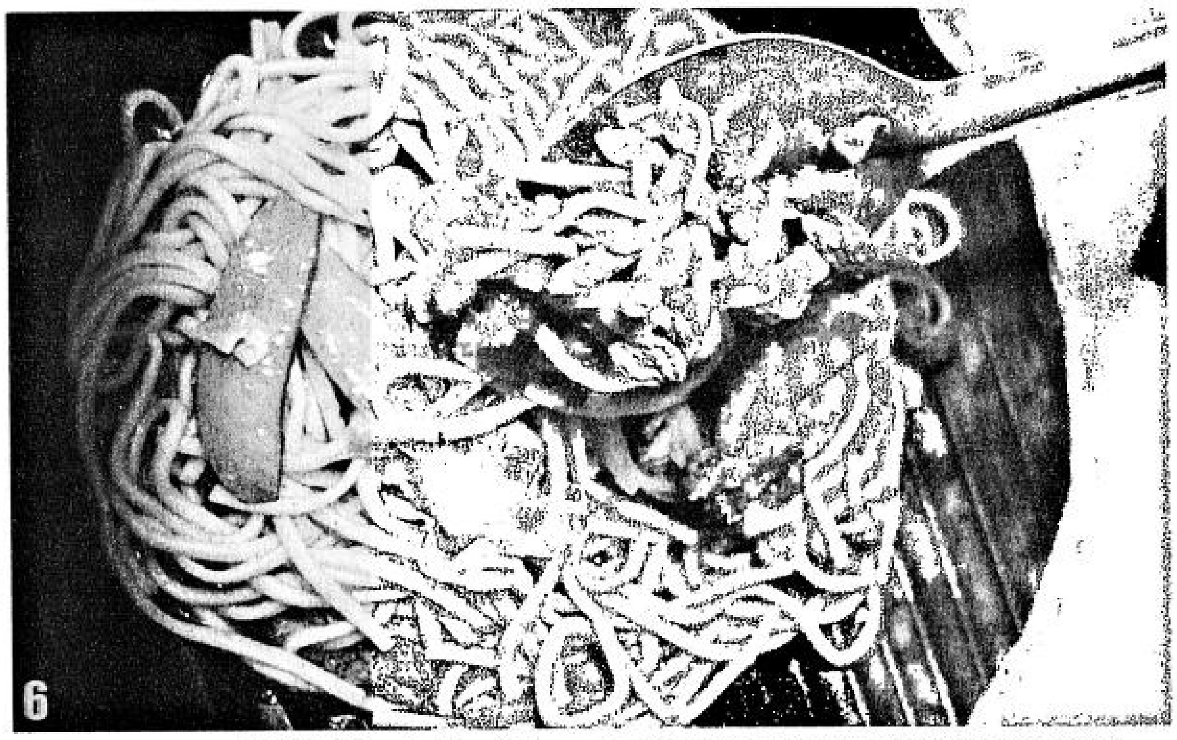
POUR a liter or so of chicken and pork stock, and cover the pan to allow it to boil quickly.



AS soon as the stock starts boiling, put a kilo of *miki* noodles into the pan. Don't forget to stir-fry constantly.



AFTER noodles are thoroughly soaked in stock, add chopped vegetables to the mix. It's simply a matter of taste, but *chami* is usually soggier compared to such "dry" noodle preparations as *bihon* and *canton*.



TRANSFER cooked *chami* into a serving plate. For a more rustic touch, line the plate with banana leaf.

STEP BY STEP

Getting chummy with chami

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

IT'S easy to understand why *chami* or stir-fried noodles remain popular among Quezonians. The dish can be found almost everywhere, from big gatherings to street corners, where vendors serve it on pieces of banana leaves to make it easier for famished youths to wolf it down.

"Not only is *chami* tasty and filling," says Chuchay Marasigan of Luisa's Restaurant, "they're also cheap and easy to prepare."

With SM City Lucena's activity center as their venue, Marasigan and colleague Malou Martinez of F & M Restaurant demonstrated how basic *chami* is cooked.

You'll need cooking oil, chopped garlic and sliced onion for sauteing. Also keep a dash of ground pepper, brown sugar and soy sauce for seasoning within reach.

Aside from *miki* noodles, main ingredients include chicken, pork and liver cuts as well as carrots, *chayote*, cabbage and snow peas (*chicharo*).

For this demonstration, the duo used chicken and pork stock. They did away with measuring cups and spoons as everything was done according "to taste."

"You can further garnish your *chami* with *chicharon*, quail eggs and chili pepper," says Martinez. "But *chami*'s flavor depends greatly on how good the stock is."

As long as the *miki* noodles are fresh, says Jaime Sy of Luzon Noodles, washing them won't be necessary. Unlike most noodles, *miki* is made from water with alkali content. If not frozen, the noodles have a short shelf life—usually only two days.

Sy belongs to the second generation of noodle makers based in Quezon. The family-owned company, which was started by patriarch Sy Yu Chuan, is said to be one of the biggest noodle producers in the province. It provided the *miki* for this demonstration.

"Washing them (noodles) will make them stick together," says Sy. "Some people wash them to rid them of any aftertaste, but as long as the *miki* is fresh, it should be neither salty nor bitter."

In case you're wondering how it got its name, *chami* is said to come from the Hookien dialect *cha* (stir fry) and *mi* (noodles). Like Chinese immigrants who brought the dish with them several generations ago to Quezon, you also need to stir-fry constantly at some point to come up with the ideal *chami*.

LUCENA-BASED competitors Malou Martinez and Chuchay Marasigan agree on a "truce" to prepare one of Quezon's staple dishes, the *chami*.

You need to stir-fry constantly to come up with the right noodles for one of Quezon's staple dishes

DINING OUT

Wednesdays are for Pinoy food

EDSA Shangri-La's Garden Café features Filipino night every Wednesday and Seafood night every Friday, 6:30-10:30 p.m. The Filipino buffet offers grilled prawns, shrimps sauteed in butter, salmon in vinegar sauce and *leche flan*. Call 6347373 or 6338888.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Pavilion Court presents East Meets West until Aug. 29. The promo features Pacific and Atlantic Seafood Connection, Cream of Tomato and Salmon, Crispy Pork Rind Shawarma, Pork Roll in Steak Sauce, Duck-in-a-Pouch, Pan-fried Lamb Peking Style, Sea Bass with Lemon Cream, Tropical Shrimps in Salad Style, Fresh Mango Fettuccini and Beancurd Surprise. Call 5261212.

RED Box Karaoke serves Grilled Chicken Steak drizzled with pesto and served with vegetables for lunch.

TRADERS Hotel Manila's Café offers Teppanyaki and Shabu-Shabu for dinner every Tuesday and Saturday until September. Call 5237011.

PEARL Manila Hotel's Oyster Bar features sauteed oysters and mixed pearl shells with lobster sauce; baked oysters smothered in tomato, bacon and hot sauce; oysters with bechamel and parmesan cheese; oysters sauteed with white wine and mushrooms, served with marrow sauce; oysters deep-fried and marinated in rich garlic and lemon juice; and oysters in pepper and mustard cream. Call 4000088.

NEWSKYHIGH Restaurant reopened recently under new management. It offers seafood like lobsters, shrimps, *lapu-lapu*, crabs, clams, *pusit* and *binga* shell. Newskyhigh Restaurant is located at 463 Remedios St., Malate, Manila. Call 5241726/2765 or 5257693

SUPER Bowl of China has opened two more branches—Super Bowl in Eastwood City Walk 2 in Libis, Quezon City and another in SM Fairview. Call 6871068 (Libis) and 9301104 (Fairview). Other Super Bowl branches are located at Megastrip of SM Megamall; Jupiter Street in Makati City; Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center; Chefs Avenue in Festival Mall, Alabang; and at 2/L, SM City North Edsa. Call 7472125 for franchising. Delivery services are available in select areas in Metro Manila. Call 7378888.

OUTBACK tries to live up to its claim that "We Know Beef" with such items on the menu as Aussie-Tizers, Down Under Favorites, Grilled on the Barbie, Land Rovers and other dishes. Outback restaurants are located in Glorietta 4, Libis and Alabang Town Center.

RED Box Karaoke at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City, lets customers "sing" for their lunch. A franchisee of a Hong Kong chain, Red Box is the first *karaoke* to open for lunch. The *karaoke*-restaurant serves, among others, Beef Yakiniku, New Orleans Chicken, Grilled Chicken Steak drizzled with pesto, and Succulent Pork Loin. Lunchtime visitors get to use the KTV room for three hours. Call 7576188

Asian noodles and pizza secrets

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Aug. 26—Delicious Asian-style noodle soups. Learn the tricks in making the perfect soup stock: Duck Noodle Soup, Beef Wanton Noodle Soup, Ban Pho Bo (Vietnamese noodle soup), Thai Scallop and Prawn Noodle Soup, Toyo and Five-spice Fried Chicken with Kamote and Berry Catsup, Chinese Roast Chicken and Pork Noodle Soup.

Aug. 28—Pizza secrets revealed. All-new Thick, Thin, Corn Meal, Pan and Stuffed Pizza Dough; 12 delicious toppings: four cheeses, pepperoni, meat lover's *primavera*, seafood, salmon, mixed mushrooms, oriental duck, four seasons, goat cheese, dessert pizza, *prosciutto*; two basic sauces.

Aug. 30—Main course pasta 2004. All-new Pepper Crust Grilled Angus Rib-Eye Steaks with Spaghettini in garlic, olive oil and chilies; Grilled Garlic Chicken with Pumpkin Pasta; Veal Scallopini with Oven-baked Ricotta Pasta; Grilled Sea Bass Fillets with Anchovy Pasta; Scallops with Cilantro Pesto Pasta; Fillet of Lapu-lapu with Lemon Pasta.

Sept. 1—Authentic paella. Valenciana, Primavera, Marinara, Farmer's Style, Black.

Sept. 3—Easy shrimps and prawns. All-new prawns: salt and pepper, delicious coriander, chili, Singapore style. Shrimps: Shrimp Curry with Guinataan Rice, Delicious Oriental Noodle Salad, Authentic Gambas al Ajillo, Fresh Black and Green Pasta with Shrimp and Garlic, Suahe Chinese Style (live steamed shrimp) with Dipping Sauce; side dishes and dessert.

Sept. 4—Children's party. All-new assorted mini sandwiches, Giant Meatball Spaghetti, Baked Macaroni Cupcakes, Delicious Corn Dog, Chicken Nuggets with three sauces, Mini Pork Barbecue, homemade ice cream sandwiches, Delicious Caramel Pop Corn, Gooey Chocolate Cup Cakes, Brownie Cones, Root Beer Floats, Easy Fruit Snow Cones.

Sept. 6—Pinoy rice toppings. Shredded Adobo Flakes over Adobo Rice, Aligue Risotto with Milk Fish Belly a la Pobre, Crisp Lechon Kawali with Serrano Chili Sauce over Stewed Monggo Rice, Ube Rice with Grilled Honey Barbecue Chicken, Angus Salpicao with Garlic Angus Rice.

Sept. 8—Perfect cocktail: patés, dips, spreads. All-new platter of cured meats, vegetables, fruits, chips, assorted toasts and points with paté (Chicken Liver with Figs, Country with Berry Sauce); terrine (seafood); dips and spreads (spinach, onion, crab and artichoke, eggplant, creamed garlic, mixed vegetable and cheese); wine pairing

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.

Skyway customer center responds to complaints

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

E-PASS holders have good reason to demand prompt response to their requests and complaints. They have paid for their right to use the express toll lanes and the skyway at the South Luzon Expressway, and it's only right that they expect their money's worth in terms of service delivery. Here are some complaints from disgruntled paying customers and the response from the customer service center of the Philippine Skyway Corporation.

From an E-pass user who is known to us: E-pass card doesn't register properly at tollbooths, causing major delay for the other cars in the lane; customer service line 7767676 is either busy or unattended; statements of account are not sent regularly; and the statements are not available online as advertised.

From a frequent user of the express routes: "(Recently), the toll operators along the SLEX started issuing an E-pass 'advisory' with an imperative note stating that such advisory would be effective immediately. Is this legal?" (The e-mail sender failed to explain details of the advisory.)

An irate motorist is disgusted about the new requirements implemented by Philippine Skyway Corporation (PSC). He writes: "E-pass holders are now required to maintain a minimum balance of P100 in their account. If the (pass) falls short of the maintaining balance, the e-pass holder will not be allowed use of the e-lane until his e-card is reloaded.

"Prior to this requirement, e-pass holders were allowed to use the e-pass card even with a zero balance. Customers were then duly warned when their remaining balance went below P250. A yellow light appeared on the toll machine as warning signal.

"Now, in addition to the new maintaining balance requirement, PSC is charging multiple-car owners the following registration fees: P150 service fee per vehicle plus P125 per extra clip holder. The driver of a vehicle without the clip that holds the e-pass in place will be apprehended, and his card will be confiscated. Isn't this highway robbery? I hope this complaint reaches the PSC management for review and reconsideration of their new policy."

> PSC imposed the P100 maintaining balance to curtail the abuses of irresponsible e-pass holders

Response

As confirmed by a spokesperson of the PSC customer service center, e-pass account holders are now required to maintain a minimum balance of P100. The new policy, which took effect last Aug. 15, also requires multiple-car owners to register each of their vehicles. The charges are P150 for service fee and P125 for each e-pass card holder.

We understood from the spokesperson at customer service that the new registration requirement for the extra vehicles of multiple-car owners was actually requested by owners for convenience.

The spokesperson also explained that the PSC management decided to impose the P100 maintaining balance to curtail the abuses of irresponsible e-pass holders who refused to pay charges incurred after they used up their balances. The PSC is trying to collect some P200,000.

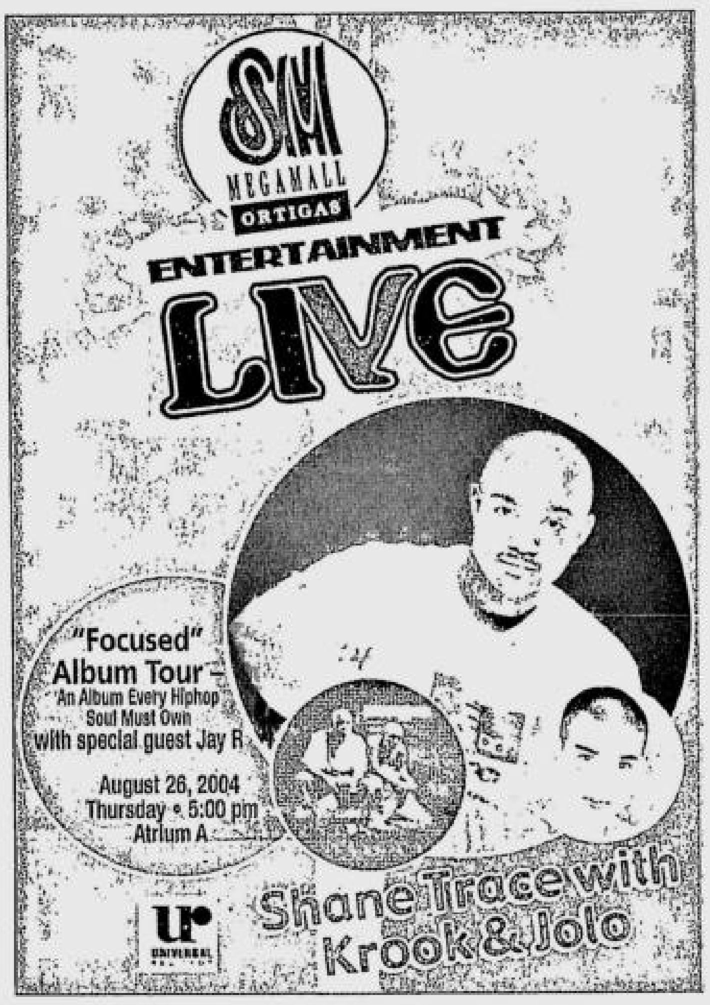
By the way, the P100 maintaining balance is refundable, should the e-pass account holder decide to terminate the account.

Praises for the good guys

Motorist Noli Espinoza of Cabanatuan City commends Reynante Fernandez and a certain Mr. Vergara of Petron for responding favorably to his complaint. Sometime ago, he sent us an e-mail to ask if it was justifiable to pay the P300 fee charged by a gasoline station at the North Luzon Expressway (Valenzuela, Bulacan area) when he parked his van during an emergency. He wrote that his vehicle had a broken clutch lining and had to be parked until a service vehicle could come. He was then approached by the station manager who said it was the management policy to collect fee for defective vehicles parked in the compound.

We forwarded the complaint to NLEX office, which responded to the motorist's complaint. Here's the letter of praise from the motorist: "They (representatives from Petron station, Valenzuela) explained it was a mistake and even hand-carried the refund to me all the way to Cabanatuan City. In addition to that, they even gave me a jacket. Thanks to Mr. Vergara and Reynante Fernandez."

E-mail the author at giron@mailstation.net



Eat, drink and help Mother Nature

THE SAVOUR Nature Food Festival marks its second year Sept. 1-30 at Greenbelt 2 and 3.

For the festival launch on Sept. 1, some 300 people will be able to sample Savour Nature dishes in one night by buying the P2,500 Launch Card. A group of people can share one card, as long as each of them samples a different dish.

The festival was conceptualized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International, the global conservation organization as fundraiser for its conservation and livelihood projects.

This year, the event is co-presented with Ayala Land Inc., Globe Platinum, Metro Magazine and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Some 30 Greenbelt 2 and 3 food and drink establishments will create items with a conservation theme and use locally available main ingredients.

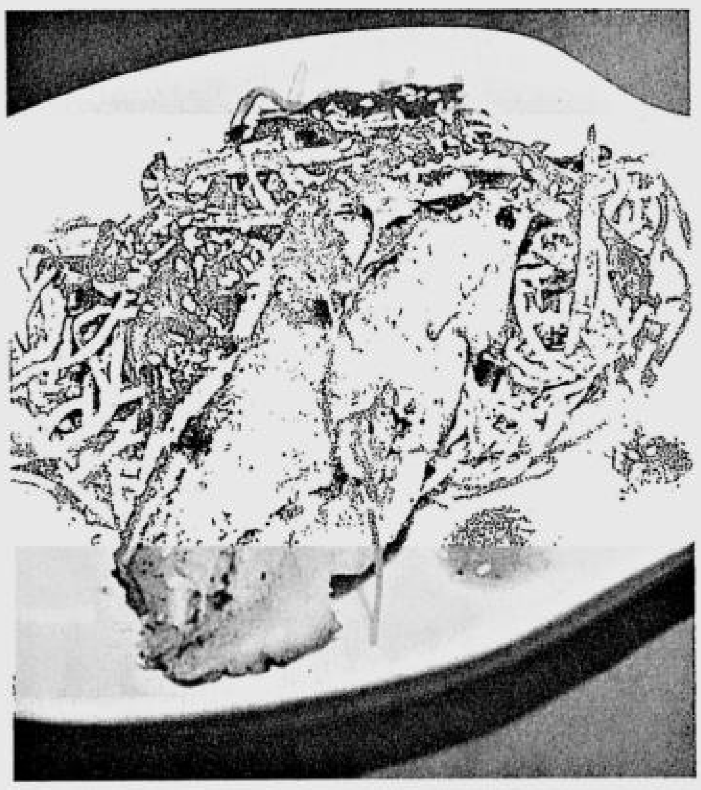
On the festival's regular run on Sept. 2, diners who want to try the Savour Nature dishes will have to get the Panda Card at only P100 from the WWF booth, second floor, Greenbelt 3, and selected restaurants.

Every order of a festival dish earns the card holder one signature. Three signatures will give the card holder a chance to visit two WWF-Philippines project sites—Puerto Princesa and Dumaguete City.

Panda Card holders also get a chance to win gift certificates from Westin Philippine Plaza, Discovery Suites, Manila Peninsula, Slimmer's World and others. Winners will be chosen in a raffle on Oct. 4.

The Panda Card also gives the holder a 50 percent discount on WWF membership fee. Membership in the conservation organization means invitations to WWF trips and activities.

Food Magazine will once again give the Food Magazine Editor's Pick Award to the most inventive festival main dish. Metro Magazine will also give a Metro's Pick Award for the best non-main dish.



TEMPLE Bar and Restaurant's White Snapper with Toasted Sesame Noodles

The recipients of the awards will each receive an artwork from sculptor and architect Lor Calma.

A People's Choice award will also be given to the restaurant that gets the highest number of votes from diners through text messages.

Participating restaurants are Bizu Patisserie, Cená Café, Italianni's Restaurant, Kai, Masas, Pepato, Segafredo, Sugi, Temple Bar and Restaurant, Una Mas, Uva, Absinth, Casa Armas, Chimara, Di Mark's, Dome Café, Figaro Coffee Company, Gaudi, Häagen Dazs Café, Kitchen, Max Brenner Chocolate Bar, Merck's Entertainment and Bistro, MY Little Kitchen (MyLK), Red Box Karaoke, San Marzano Italian Bistro Bar, Starbucks Coffee, Tavern on the Square, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf , The Good Earth Tea Room, and The Seafood Club by Red Crab.

Call 4367311/ 4367317/ 9207923 or e-mail lbeltran@wwf.org.ph.

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September 2 to 30, 2004 · Greenbelt 2 & 3, Makati City

For the whole month of September, Greenbelt 2 & 3's finest restaurants and bars will showcase culinary masterpieces especially made to celebrate a vision for a living planet. Come sit down to this month-long feast and help WWF, the global conservation organization, find better ways for Filipinos to live in harmony with the environment.

Dig in to the dishes and delight your senses in this unique festival. Plus, get a chance to win exciting prizes in a special raffle!*

List of Participating Restaurants

Greenbelt 2: Bizu Patisserie • Cena • Italianni's • Kai • Masas • Pepato • Segafredo • Sugi • Temple Bar and Restaurant • Una Mas • Uva

Greenbelt 3: Absinth • Casa Armas • Chimara • Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Dome • DiMark's • Figaro Coffee Shop • Gaudi Bar Restaurante • Haagen Dazs • Kitchen • Max Brenner • Merck's Entertainment and Bistro • MyLK • Red Box Karaoke • San Marzano • Seafood Club by Red Crab • Starbucks • The Good Earth Tea Room • Tavern on the Square

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Promo period: September 2-30, 2004.
Grand Draw: October 4, 2004.
*See leaflets for complete details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-519 Series of 2004.

Ad space provided by the Philippine Daily Inquirer

Tuna lovers join on-the-spot cooking contest

THE CENTURY Tuna Culinary Meet 2004, an on-the-spot cooking contest, will be held on Aug. 28-29 at SM Megatrade Hall 3.

The amateur division consists of the family meal and the junior categories. The former is open to two-member family teams who must prepare an original Century Tuna family meal good for six persons. The meal is composed of a vegetable dish, a choice of rice toppings, Oriental noodle or pasta and a cold appetizer with sauce. The latter is open to high school students, 13-16 years old. They must prepare an original Century Tuna recipe for bread toppings or sandwiches (hot or cold) for six servings.

The student division is open to all students taking Hotel and Restaurant Management and allied courses. Each team shall be composed of three members who will prepare an original Century Tuna buffet recipe good for 10 to 12 persons. The buffet must include two appetizers with one sauce of each; one salad with dressing; and one entrée or main dish, with two sidings or three garnishes, and one sauce.

The prizes include holiday packages to Boracay and Hong Kong.

Gigi Angkaw, Century Tuna culinary director, said this year's contest is family-oriented, "We want the preference for a healthy lifestyle to permeate the whole family, which is the basic unit of society. When the family is healthy, then the community as well as the entire country becomes healthy too."

Ayet Evangelista, Century Tuna product manager, said the festival would emphasize tuna as a health product for the family.

Call 6378974 or e-mail culinary@centurytuna.com.ph. Also call 8481600/8111720 or e-mail info@eventvisions.com.ph.